

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOI/PA  
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET  
FOI/PA# 1353814-0

Total Deleted Page(s) = 72

Page 3 ~ Referral/Consult;  
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Page 199 ~ Duplicate;

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FD-340 (Rev. 4-11-03)

File Number

[Redacted]

302

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Field Office Acquiring Evidence WFO

Serial # of Originating Document 8 51

Date Received 1/28/16

From DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
(Name of Contributor/Interviewee)

(Address)

(City and State)

By

[Redacted]

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To Be Returned ☐ Yes

☒ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes

☒ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e)  
Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

☐ Yes

☒ No

Federal Taxpayer Information (FTI)

☐ Yes

☒ No

MID YEAR EXAM.

Reference:

(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description:

☐ Original notes re interview of

[Redacted]

EMACS

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HRC-9154

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**From:** Toner, Mark C  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 6:39 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] DS PA Media [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: OSAC

b6  
b7C

[REDACTED] - what do you guys think of this?

b5 Per DOS

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 05:59 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] Toner, Mark C  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] DS PA Media [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: OSAC

b6  
b7C

DS cleared response. Sorry it took so long.

**DS Response to Media Query  
September 28, 2012**

**Fox News (Justin Fishel)  
OSAC: Confirm Existence of OSAC Report Re: 9/11 Anniversary**

b5 Per DOS

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**From:** Toner, Mark C  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 12:33 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] DS PA Media [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: OSAC

b6  
b7C



+ DS Press Office as [redacted] may be out of office

From: [redacted]  
Sent: Friday, September 28, 2012 12:28 PM  
To: [redacted]  
Cc: Toner, Mark C  
Subject: Fw: OSAC

b6  
b7C

[redacted] b5 Per DOS

From: Fishel, Justin [mailto:[redacted]]  
Sent: Friday, September 28, 2012 12:24 PM  
To: [redacted]  
Subject: OSAC

b6 Per DOS

b6  
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<http://www.cricon.org/2012/osac-no-credible-threat-on-911-anniversary-date>

## OSAC: No credible threat on 9/11 anniversary date

September 6, 2012 By Bob Klamser

OSAC released the following report on 6 September 2012:

### **Terrorism and Important Dates**

9/6/2012

#### **Summary**

OSAC currently has no credible information to suggest that al-Qa'ida or any other terrorist group is plotting any kind of attack overseas to coincide with the upcoming anniversary of September 11. However, constituents often have concerns around important dates, holidays, and major events. Often times, these concerns are the result of increased media attention to the issue, rather than credible evidence of a terrorist plot.

While it is true that In the aftermath of the May 2, 2011 raid on Osama bin Laden's compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan, several media sources reported on various documents recovered during the raid that suggested al-Qa'ida was seeking to conduct significant attacks on major holidays and anniversaries, there are no indications that any of these plans were ever operational. OSAC constituents should review their local emergency action plans and security protocols ahead of major U.S. holidays and anniversary dates.

#### **Terrorism and Holidays/Anniversary Dates**

Historically, al-Qa'ida and other transnational terrorist groups have not conducted successful attacks on major U.S. holidays and anniversary dates. One possible explanation for this lack of activity is due to the increase in security on major dates because of a perceived vulnerability. A terrorist group that has spent a significant amount of time monitoring a potential target, training operatives, and acquiring the weapons necessary for a major attack would be less likely to attack when security is at a heightened level.

Terrorist groups are predisposed to conduct the attack first and justify the reasoning subsequently. One recent example of this predisposition was the June 28, 2011 attack on the InterContinental Hotel in Kabul. The attackers primary motivation was to kill as many Westerners and Afghan officials as possible; however, after media reports began erroneously claiming that an important Transition Conference was going to take place at the hotel the next day, the terrorists responsible for the attack claimed that they were in fact targeting that conference. Although specific dates may be important symbolically to terrorist groups, a near-term successful attack will likely be painted as both revenge for the death of bin Laden and a blow against the United States.

#### Implications

An international terrorist attack around a major international date or holiday would likely fall into one of the three following scenarios.

- 1) Attacks abroad on significant U.S. holidays, such as July 4 – while U.S. Missions abroad have likely increased their security profile during major U.S. government holidays, host nation security forces are unlikely to elevate their security levels.
- 2) Attacks following a drawdown of security after a major date – foreign countries will often increase their security posture during a major event such as the Olympics or World Cup, effectively deterring major attacks during the event. However, following the conclusion of the event, security is often reduced. Terrorist groups may wait for security levels to decrease before launching an attack.
- 3) Lone wolf attacks by independently radicalized individuals on significant dates – while terrorists operating as part of an established cell or network may prefer to bide their time and wait for an opportune moment to strike, individual sympathizers with no formal training or connection to a terrorist group could be inspired to conduct an attack on a significant date despite heightened levels of security. Lone wolves are less likely to attract the attention of host nation counter-terrorism officials.

#### Conclusion

At this time, OSAC is aware of no specific or credible threats against the U.S. private sector on September 11. As highlighted throughout the report, al-Qa'ida and other terrorist groups are unlikely to conduct large-scale attacks on significant dates or holidays due to the heightened security levels. However, U.S. private sector organizations operating abroad in countries that have not raised their overall security levels may want to consider their vigilance and guard against complacency. OSAC continues to monitor trends and emerging issues that may have a significant security impact on U.S. private sector operations overseas.

Filed Under: Alert, email campaign

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 6:40 PM  
**To:** Toner, Mark C [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] DS PA Media [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: OSAC

b6  
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[redacted]  
b5 Per DOS

**From:** Toner, Mark C  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 06:39 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] DS PA Media [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: OSAC

b6  
b7C

[redacted] what do you guys think of this?

b5 Per DOS

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 05:59 PM  
**To:** [redacted] Toner, Mark C  
**Cc:** [redacted] DS PA Media [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: OSAC

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**DS Response to Media Query**  
**September 28, 2012**

**Fox News (Justin Fishel)**  
**OSAC: Confirm Existence of OSAC Report Re: 9/11 Anniversary**

[redacted]  
b5

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**From:** Toner, Mark C  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 12:33 PM  
**To:** [redacted] DS PA Media; [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: OSAC

b6  
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+ DS Press Office as [redacted] may be out of office

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**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 12:28 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Cc:** Toner, Mark C  
**Subject:** Fw: OSAC

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[redacted] b5 Per DOS

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**From:** Fishel, Justin [mailto:[redacted]]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 12:24 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** OSAC

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

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## Terrorism and Holidays/Anniversary Dates

Historically, al-Qa'ida and other transnational terrorist groups have not conducted successful attacks on major U.S. holidays and anniversary dates. One possible explanation for this lack of activity is due to the increase in security on major dates because of a perceived vulnerability. A terrorist group that has spent a significant amount of time monitoring a potential target, training operatives, and acquiring the weapons necessary for a major attack would be less likely to attack when security is at a heightened level.

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Filed Under: Alert, emailcampaign

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 6:47 PM  
**To:** [redacted] Toner, Mark C [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] DS PA Media [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: OSAC

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**Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**SMARTCategory:** Working

b5 Per DOS  
b6 Per FBI  
b7C Per FBI

[redacted]

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**From:** [redacted]  
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[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]  
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September 28, 2012

Fox News (Justin Fishel)

OSAC: Confirm Existence of OSAC Report Re: 9/11 Anniversary

b5 Per DOS

**From:** Toner, Mark C  
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**From:** [REDACTED]  
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Filed Under: Alert, emailcampaign

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 6:53 PM  
**To:** Kennedy, Patrick F; Boswell, Eric J  
**Cc:** Mills, Cheryl D, Sullivan, Jacob J [redacted]  
**Subject:** OSAC

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b7C

**Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**SMARTCategory:** Working

Not sure how closely you have been tracking this issue of the OSAC statement coming off the website, but it's a burbling question. [redacted]  
[redacted]

b5 Per DOS

This email is UNCLASSIFIED

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 6:47 PM  
**To:** [redacted] Toner, Mark C [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] DS PA Media; [redacted]  
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**From:** [redacted]  
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**From:** Toner, Mark C  
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[REDACTED]

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Filed Under: Alert, emailcampaign

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**From:** Toner, Mark C  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 7:21 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] DS PA Media; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: OSAC

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b7C

[REDACTED]  
b5 Per DOS

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 06:46 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] Toner, Mark C; [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] DS PA Media; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: OSAC

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 6:40 PM  
**To:** Toner, Mark C; [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] DS PA Media; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: OSAC

b6  
b7C

[REDACTED]  
b5 Per DOS

---

**From:** Toner, Mark C  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 06:39 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] DS PA Media; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: OSAC

b6  
b7C

[REDACTED] - what do you guys think of this?

b5 Per DOS  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 05:59 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] Toner, Mark C  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] DS PA Media; [REDACTED]

b6  
b7C

**Subject:** RE: OSAC ,

DS cleared response. Sorry it took so long.

**DS Response to Media Query  
September 28, 2012**

**Fox News (Justin Fishel)  
OSAC: Confirm Existence of OSAC Report Re: 9/11 Anniversary**

b5 Per DOS

---

**From:** Toner, Mark C  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 12:33 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] DS PA Media; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: OSAC

b6  
b7C

+ DS Press Office as [REDACTED] may be out of office

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 12:28 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Toner, Mark C  
**Subject:** Fw: OSAC

b6  
b7C

[REDACTED]  
b5 Per DOS

---

**From:** Fishel, Justin [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 12:24 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** OSAC

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Here is the alleged text that was supposedly included in a OSAC Terrorism and Important Dates release put out on Sep 6, 2012. The complaint being made is that the report was scrubbed from the website after Sep 11<sup>th</sup>. Of course I have no way to verify that there ever was a report. It's clear that

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b6  
b7C

-Justin

<http://www.cricon.org/2012/osac-no-credible-threat-on-911-anniversary-date>

## OSAC: No credible threat on 9/11 anniversary date

September 6, 2012 By Bob Klamser

OSAC released the following report on 6 September 2012:

### **Terrorism and Important Dates**

9/6/2012

#### Summary

OSAC currently has no credible information to suggest that al-Qa'ida or any other terrorist group is plotting any kind of attack overseas to coincide with the upcoming anniversary of September 11. However, constituents often have concerns around important dates, holidays, and major events. Often times, these concerns are the result of increased media attention to the issue, rather than credible evidence of a terrorist plot.

While it is true that In the aftermath of the May 2, 2011 raid on Osama bin Laden's compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan, several media sources reported on various documents recovered during the raid that suggested al-Qa'ida was seeking to conduct significant attacks on major holidays and anniversaries, there are no indications that any of these plans were ever operational. OSAC constituents should review their local emergency action plans and security protocols ahead of major U.S. holidays and anniversary dates.

#### Terrorism and Holidays/Anniversary Dates

Historically, al-Qa'ida and other transnational terrorist groups have not conducted successful attacks on major U.S. holidays and anniversary dates. One possible explanation for this lack of activity is due to the increase in security on major dates because of a perceived vulnerability. A terrorist group that has spent a significant amount of time monitoring a potential target, training operatives, and acquiring the weapons necessary for a major attack would be less likely to attack when security is at a heightened level.

Terrorist groups are predisposed to conduct the attack first and justify the reasoning subsequently. One recent example of this predisposition was the June 28, 2011 attack on the InterContinental Hotel in Kabul. The attackers primary motivation was to kill as many Westerners and Afghan officials as possible; however, after media reports began erroneously claiming that an important Transition Conference was going to take place at the hotel the next day, the terrorists responsible for the attack claimed that they were in fact targeting that conference. Although specific dates may be important symbolically to terrorist groups, a near-term successful attack will likely be painted as both revenge for the death of bin Laden and a blow against the United States.

#### Implications

An international terrorist attack around a major international date or holiday would likely fall into one of the three following scenarios.

1) Attacks abroad on significant U.S. holidays, such as July 4 – while U.S. Missions abroad have likely increased their security profile during major U.S. government holidays, host nation security forces are unlikely to elevate their security levels.

2) Attacks following a drawdown of security after a major date – foreign countries will often increase their security posture during a major event such as the Olympics or World Cup, effectively deterring major attacks during the event. However, following the conclusion of the event, security is often reduced. Terrorist groups may wait for security levels to decrease before launching an attack.



3) Lone wolf attacks by independently radicalized individuals on significant dates -- while terrorists operating as part of an established cell or network may prefer to bide their time and wait for an opportune moment to strike, individual sympathizers with no formal training or connection to a terrorist group could be inspired to conduct an attack on a significant date despite heightened levels of security. Lone wolves are less likely to attract the attention of host nation counter-terrorism officials.

#### Conclusion

At this time, OSAC is aware of no specific or credible threats against the U.S. private sector on September 11. As highlighted throughout the report, al-Qa'ida and other terrorist groups are unlikely to conduct large-scale attacks on significant dates or holidays due to the heightened security levels. However, U.S. private sector organizations operating abroad in countries that have not raised their overall security levels may want to consider their vigilance and guard against complacency. OSAC continues to monitor trends and emerging issues that may have a significant security impact on U.S. private sector operations overseas.

Filed Under: Alert, emailcampaign

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**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 7:24 PM  
**To:** Toner, Mark C; [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] DS PA Media; [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: OSAC

b6  
b7C

[redacted]

b5 Per DOS

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**From:** Toner, Mark C  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 07:21 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] DS PA Media; [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: OSAC

b6  
b7C

[redacted]

b5 Per DOS

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**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 06:46 PM  
**To:** [redacted] Toner, Mark C; [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] DS PA Media; [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: OSAC

b5 Per DOS  
b6 Per FBI  
b7C Per FBI

[redacted]

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 6:40 PM  
**To:** Toner, Mark C; [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] DS PA Media; [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: OSAC

b6  
b7C

[redacted]

b5 Per DOS

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**From:** Toner, Mark C  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 06:39 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] DS PA Media; [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: OSAC

b6  
b7C

[redacted] what do you guys think of this?

From: [redacted]  
Sent: Friday, September 28, 2012 05:59 PM  
To: [redacted] Toner, Mark C  
Cc: [redacted] DS PA Media [redacted]  
Subject: RE: OSAC

b6  
b7C

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**DS Response to Media Query  
September 28, 2012**

**Fox News (Justin Fishel)**  
**OSAC: Confirm Existence of OSAC Report Re: 9/11 Anniversary** b5 Per DOS

From: Toner, Mark C  
Sent: Friday, September 28, 2012 12:33 PM  
To: [redacted] DS PA Media [redacted]  
Subject: RE: OSAC

b6  
b7C

+ DS Press Office as [redacted] may be out of office

From: [redacted]  
Sent: Friday, September 28, 2012 12:28 PM  
To: [redacted]  
Cc: Toner, Mark C  
Subject: Fw: OSAC

b6  
b7C

From: Fishel, Justin [mailto: ]  
Sent: Friday, September 28, 2012 12:24 PM  
To:   
Subject: OSAC

b6 Per DOS

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b7C

-Justin

<http://www.cricon.org/2012/osac-no-credible-threat-on-911-anniversary-date>

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September 6, 2012 By Bob Klamser

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### Terrorism and Important Dates

9/6/2012

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OSAC currently has no credible information to suggest that al-Qa'ida or any other terrorist group is plotting any kind of attack overseas to coincide with the upcoming anniversary of September 11. However, constituents often have concerns around important dates, holidays, and major events. Often times, these concerns are the result of increased media attention to the issue, rather than credible evidence of a terrorist plot.

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#### Terrorism and Holidays/Anniversary Dates

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An international terrorist attack around a major international date or holiday would likely fall into one of the three following scenarios.

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Filed Under: Alert, emailcampaign

---

**From:** Boswell, Eric J  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 8:28 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Re: OSAC

b6  
b7C

The DS response was not cleared with me [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

b5 Per DOS

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 06:52 PM  
**To:** Kennedy, Patrick F; Boswell, Eric J  
**Cc:** Mills, Cheryl D; Sullivan, Jacob J [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** OSAC

b6  
b7C

Not sure how closely you have been tracking this issue of the OSAC statement coming off the website, but it's a  
burbling question, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

b5 Per DOS

This email is UNCLASSIFIED

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 6:47 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] Toner, Mark C; [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] DS PA Media [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: OSAC

b6  
b7C

b5 Per DOS

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 6:40 PM  
**To:** Toner, Mark C; [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] DS PA Media [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: OSAC

b6  
b7C

b5 Per DOS

---

**From:** Toner, Mark C  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 06:39 PM

To: [redacted]  
Cc: [redacted] DS PA Media [redacted]  
Subject: Re: OSAC

b6  
b7C

[redacted] what do you guys think of this?

b5 Per DOS

---

From: [redacted]  
Sent: Friday, September 28, 2012 05:59 PM  
To: [redacted] Toner, Mark C  
Cc: [redacted] DS PA Media [redacted]  
Subject: RE: OSAC

b6  
b7C

DS cleared response. Sorry it took so long.

## DS Response to Media Query September 28, 2012

Fox News (Justin Fishel)  
OSAC: Confirm Existence of OSAC Report Re: 9/11 Anniversary

b5 Per DOS

---

From: Toner, Mark C  
Sent: Friday, September 28, 2012 12:33 PM  
To: [redacted] DS PA Media; [redacted]  
Subject: RE: OSAC

b6  
b7C

+ DS Press Office as [redacted] may be out of office

---

From: [redacted]  
Sent: Friday, September 28, 2012 12:28 PM  
To: [redacted]

b6  
b7C

Cc: Toner, Mark C  
Subject: Fw: OSAC

b5 Per DOS

From: Fishel, Justin [mailto: ]  
Sent: Friday, September 28, 2012 12:24 PM  
To:   
Subject: OSAC

b6 Per DOS

b6  
b7c

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-Justin

<http://www.cricon.org/2012/osac-no-credible-threat-on-911-anniversary-date>

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9/6/2012

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conference. Although specific dates may be important symbolically to terrorist groups, a near-term successful attack will likely be painted as both revenge for the death of bin Laden and a blow against the United States.

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Filed Under: [Alert](#), [emailcampaign](#)

---

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 29, 2012 7:42 PM  
**To:** [redacted] Toner, Mark C; [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] DS PA Media; [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: OSAC

b6  
b7C

Regarding the email exchange from last night....DS provides the following additional info. A/S Boswell has reviewed and clears the following.

DS Response to Media Query

Fox News (Justin Fishel)

OSAC: Confirm Existence of OSAC Report

b5 Per DOS

---

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 07:23 PM  
**To:** Toner, Mark C; [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] DS PA Media; [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: OSAC

b6  
b7C

[redacted]  
b5 Per DOS

---

**From:** Toner, Mark C  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 07:21 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] DS PA Media; [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: OSAC

b6  
b7C

[redacted]  
b5 Per DOS

---

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 06:46 PM  
**To:** [redacted] Toner, Mark C; [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] DS PA Media; [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: OSAC

b6  
b7C

[redacted]  
b5 Per DOS

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 6:40 PM  
**To:** Toner, Mark C; [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] DS PA Media; [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: OSAC

b6  
b7C

[redacted] b5 Per DOS

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**From:** Toner, Mark C  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 06:39 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] DS PA Media; [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: OSAC

b6  
b7C

[redacted] what do you guys think of this?

b5 Per DOS

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**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 05:59 PM  
**To:** [redacted] Toner, Mark C  
**Cc:** [redacted] DS PA Media; [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: OSAC

b6  
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**September 28, 2012**

**Fox News (Justin Fishel)**  
**OSAC: Confirm Existence of OSAC Report Re: 9/11 Anniversary**

[redacted] b5 Per DOS

b5 Per DOS

From: Toner, Mark C  
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b6  
b7C

+ DS Press Office as [REDACTED] may be out of office

From: [REDACTED]  
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To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: Toner, Mark C  
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b6  
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Subject: OSAC

b6 Per DOS

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Filed Under: [Alert](#), [emailcampaign](#)

---

**From:** Toner, Mark C  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 29, 2012 11:12 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] DS PA Media; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: OSAC

b6  
b7C

[REDACTED] thanks, This is better. Am inclined to wait and revisit monday though as we've had no follow up

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 29, 2012 07:41 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] Toner, Mark C [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] DS PA Media [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: OSAC

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b7C

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Fox News (Justin Fishel)

OSAC: Confirm Existence of OSAC Report

b5 Per DOS

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 07:23 PM  
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**Cc:** [REDACTED] DS PA Media; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: OSAC

b6  
b7C

b5 Per DOS

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**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 07:21 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] DS PA Media; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: OSAC

b6  
b7C

b5 Per DOS

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 06:46 PM

b6  
b7C

To: [redacted] Toner, Mark C; [redacted]  
Cc: [redacted] DS PA Media; [redacted]  
Subject: RE: OSAC

[redacted]

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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From: [redacted]  
Sent: Friday, September 28, 2012 6:40 PM  
To: Toner, Mark C; [redacted]  
Cc: [redacted] DS PA Media; [redacted]  
Subject: Re: OSAC

b6  
b7C

[redacted] b5 Per DOS

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From: Toner, Mark C  
Sent: Friday, September 28, 2012 06:39 PM  
To: [redacted]  
Cc: [redacted] DS PA Media; [redacted]  
Subject: Re: OSAC

b6  
b7C

[redacted] what do you guys think of this?

b5 Per DOS

[redacted]

---

From: [redacted]  
Sent: Friday, September 28, 2012 05:59 PM  
To: [redacted] Toner, Mark C  
Cc: [redacted] DS PA Media; [redacted]  
Subject: RE: OSAC

b6  
b7C

DS cleared response. Sorry it took so long.

**DS Response to Media Query  
September 28, 2012**

**Fox News (Justin Fishel)  
OSAC: Confirm Existence of OSAC Report Re: 9/11 Anniversary**

b5 Per DOS

[redacted]

**From:** Toner, Mark C  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 12:33 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] DS PA Media; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: OSAC

b6  
b7C

+ DS Press Office as [REDACTED] may be out of office

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 12:28 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Toner, Mark C  
**Subject:** Fw: OSAC

b6  
b7C

b5 Per DOS

**From:** Fishel, Justin [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 12:24 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** OSAC

b6 Per DOS

b6  
b7C

Here is the alleged text that was supposedly included in a OSAC Terrorism and Important Dates release put out on Sep 6, 2012. The complaint being made is that the report was scrubbed from the website after Sep 11\*. Of course I have no way to verify that there ever was a report. It's clear that the report is not on the website. So if you can ask if there ever was a report that would be great.  
 Thanks [REDACTED]

-Justin

<http://www.cricon.org/2012/osac-no-credible-threat-on-911-anniversary-date>

## OSAC: No credible threat on 9/11 anniversary date

September 6, 2012 By [Bob Klamser](#)

OSAC released the following report on 6 September 2012:

**Terrorism and Important Dates**



9/6/2012

## Summary

OSAC currently has no credible information to suggest that al-Qa'ida or any other terrorist group is plotting any kind of attack overseas to coincide with the upcoming anniversary of September 11. However, constituents often have concerns around important dates, holidays, and major events. Often times, these concerns are the result of increased media attention to the issue, rather than credible evidence of a terrorist plot.

While it is true that in the aftermath of the May 2, 2011 raid on Osama bin Laden's compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan, several media sources reported on various documents recovered during the raid that suggested al-Qa'ida was seeking to conduct significant attacks on major holidays and anniversaries, there are no indications that any of these plans were ever operational. OSAC constituents should review their local emergency action plans and security protocols ahead of major U.S. holidays and anniversary dates.

### Terrorism and Holidays/Anniversary Dates

Historically, al-Qa'ida and other transnational terrorist groups have not conducted successful attacks on major U.S. holidays and anniversary dates. One possible explanation for this lack of activity is due to the increase in security on major dates because of a perceived vulnerability. A terrorist group that has spent a significant amount of time monitoring a potential target, training operatives, and acquiring the weapons necessary for a major attack would be less likely to attack when security is at a heightened level.

Terrorist groups are predisposed to conduct the attack first and justify the reasoning subsequently. One recent example of this predisposition was the June 28, 2011 attack on the InterContinental Hotel in Kabul. The attackers' primary motivation was to kill as many Westerners and Afghan officials as possible; however, after media reports began erroneously claiming that an important Transition Conference was going to take place at the hotel the next day, the terrorists responsible for the attack claimed that they were in fact targeting that conference. Although specific dates may be important symbolically to terrorist groups, a near-term successful attack will likely be painted as both revenge for the death of bin Laden and a blow against the United States.

### Implications

An international terrorist attack around a major international date or holiday would likely fall into one of the three following scenarios.

- 1) Attacks abroad on significant U.S. holidays, such as July 4 – while U.S. Missions abroad have likely increased their security profile during major U.S. government holidays, host nation security forces are unlikely to elevate their security levels.
- 2) Attacks following a drawdown of security after a major date – foreign countries will often increase their security posture during a major event such as the Olympics or World Cup, effectively deterring major attacks during the event. However, following the conclusion of the event, security is often reduced. Terrorist groups may wait for security levels to decrease before launching an attack.
- 3) Lone wolf attacks by independently radicalized individuals on significant dates – while terrorists operating as part of an established cell or network may prefer to bide their time and wait for an opportune moment to strike, individual sympathizers with no formal training or connection to a terrorist group could be inspired to conduct an attack on a significant date despite heightened levels of security. Lone wolves are less likely to attract the attention of host nation counter-terrorism officials.

### Conclusion

At this time, OSAC is aware of no specific or credible threats against the U.S. private sector on September 11. As highlighted throughout the report, al-Qa'ida and other terrorist groups are unlikely to conduct large-scale attacks on significant dates or holidays due to the heightened security levels. However, U.S. private sector organizations operating abroad in countries that have not raised their overall security levels may want to consider their vigilance and guard against complacency. OSAC continues to monitor trends and emerging issues that may have a significant security impact on U.S. private sector operations overseas.



From: Berger, Judson [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, September 28, 2012 2:47 PM  
To: [REDACTED] (PACE) [REDACTED]  
Subject: Memo on Al Qaeda threat

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Good afternoon – question on Benghazi.

The link below describes a purported State Department posting/memo from Sept. 6, saying there was no suspected Al Qaeda threat leading up to Sept. 11.

Here:  
<http://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2012/09/bombshell-obama-administration-deleted-state-dept-memo-from-internet-after-discovering-al-qaeda-was-behind-benghazi-attack/>

Could you verify the authenticity of that original memo? I'm less concerned with the allegation that it was scrubbed, though if there is an explanation for that please let me know.

Also, Catherine Herridge was reporting that a source said there was no threat assessment at the compound prior to the ambassador's arrival. Is that true and/or does State care to comment on that claim?

Thank you.

Judson Berger  
Senior Editor for Politics, FoxNews.com  
[REDACTED]

b6 Per DOS

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 2:49 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] (PACE)  
**Subject:** FW: Memo on Al Qaeda threat

b6  
b7C

**Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**SMARTCategory:** Working  
**SMARTClassificationData:**

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</ClassificationMarkings>
```

I got this

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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Senior Editor for Politics, FoxNews.com



b6 Per DOS

---

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 2:50 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** FOX/Memo'

b6  
b7C

**Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**SMARTCategory:** Working

Should I add you or proceed directly to the profanities?

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Berger, Judson [mailto:[redacted]]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 2:47 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (PACE); [redacted]  
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Senior Editor for Politics, FoxNews.com

b6 Per DOS

---

**From:** [REDACTED] (PACE)  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 3:05 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Memo on Al Qaeda threat

b6  
b7C

Thx. Be sure to wash hands after dealing with FOX.

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 2:49 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] (PACE)  
**Subject:** FW: Memo on Al Qaeda threat

b6  
b7C

I got this

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Berger, Judson [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 2:47 PM  
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b7C Per FBI

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Senior Editor for Politics, FoxNews.com

b6 Per DOS

---

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 3:13 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: FOX/"Memo"

b6  
b7C

[redacted] b5 Per DOS

---

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 02:49 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** FOX/"Memo"

b6  
b7C

Should I add you or proceed directly to the profanities?

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**From:** Berger, Judson [mailto:[redacted]]  
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Judson Berger  
Senior Editor for Politics, FoxNews.com

[redacted] b6 Per DOS



From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, September 28, 2012 3:14 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: FOX/"Memo"

b6  
b7C

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
SMARTCategory: Working  
SMARTClassificationData:

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  <ShowMarkings>>true</ShowMarkings>
  <RetainClassification>>true</RetainClassification>
  <IsInitialized>>true</IsInitialized>
</ClassificationMarkings>
```

b5 Per DOS

What does that even mean, like the day before he got there?  
And do you want me to add you to this or have you heard from him directly. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, September 28, 2012 3:13 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Re: FOX/"Memo"

b6  
b7C

b5 Per DOS

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 02:49 PM  
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Thank you.

Judson Berger  
Senior Editor for Politics, FoxNews.com  
[REDACTED]

b6 Per DOS

From: [REDACTED] (PACE) [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2012 11:02 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: INTERNAL TRANSCRIPT 9/24

b6  
b7C

**UNEDITED/INTERNAL TRANSCRIPT**  
September 24, 2012  
Via Telephone

**QUESTION:** Hi.

**ANSWER:** Hi, [REDACTED] (ph).

b6  
b7C

**QUESTION:** So the purpose of my call, and I'm -- we can talk about anything you want, but the purpose of my call was to simply say that in the middle of the meshugas, the CNN/State Department back and forth, I just want to make sure that you and I keep an open channel of communication about anything that's not related to that and that we figure out -- make sure that we can compartmentalize it, because I wouldn't want anything from this frustrating experience --

**ANSWER:** I appreciate that. I don't think anything has gone on. I mean, literally you guys are the pool for UNGA today. I think [REDACTED] (ph) is being treated very well, as normal. (Laughter.) I think you guys have a Bob Hormats interview coming up in a couple of days that's going on as planned. I think you've got one in a couple of days further with Marc Grossman and Christiane. That one -- there's no fatwa.

b6  
b7C

**QUESTION:** And I've tried to stay out of it a little bit. Well, I was out of it when it was all happening, but I've tried to, in some way, just try to stay out of it for this reason, because it's -- these things get complicated, and you never know how they're going to play out, and I figured, you know what, there are enough people at CNN that are involved in it, so I don't have to be another one. And it just makes it that much easier for us to handle all the other normal course of business stuff that's going that is important.

**ANSWER:** I agree. But now that we are on the phone --

**QUESTION:** Okay. Anyway, that was the reason --

**ANSWER:** I feel like we should take advantage of --

**QUESTION:** That was the initial reason I wanted to at least touch base with you on (inaudible).

**ANSWER:** I hear you. I appreciate that. I feel like we should attempt to have a reasonable and thoughtful conversation about what's going on.

**QUESTION:** We can do that too.

**ANSWER:** I just don't understand. And I – I've been watching today. I didn't see Mark (ph). To the extent that I watch you guys all the time and obviously was watching your coverage about this last week, I do think that it's been calibrated down a bit, which I appreciate. But I just don't understand. I just wish you guys would have just said why you did what you did. I have not – I've said a lot this weekend, a lot of with the tone towards you guys, but I've never once questioned CNN's journalistic right to report on this thing. I just don't understand how it unfolded. And I understand that you're not privy to every step of it, but you have to be, by this point, a little bit familiar with it.

**QUESTION:** I've spent a lot of time trying to get educated on it. So I don't – the Friday night – I think CNN has been half pregnant throughout the whole thing in that – I think – in that I think you have to kind of either going – you're either going to immediately disclose everything about the diary, or when you do it's going to be complicated. And I think what happened was it got complicated.

What I think happened on Friday night is that it became apparent that somebody had revealed the existence of the journal. Huffington Post and *Wall Street Journal* were writing on it. I don't – I honestly don't remember – I don't know the timeline of when either they talked to you or they talked to the family member, but they had you and the family member on the record. I don't remember when it was, whether it was first – first they reached out to us and said we know it for a fact we're going to write, and then we reported it, and then you and the family member --

**ANSWER:** Yeah. Well let me – since we have the hotline open --

**QUESTION:** All right. Okay. Yeah. This is the hotline. This is the red phone to make sure that nobody --

**ANSWER:** Yeah. The point of the hotline was to avoid nuclear war.

**QUESTION:** Right.

**ANSWER:** This might have been helpful a few days ago, (inaudible).

**QUESTION:** I know. I was thinking about that this morning, but anyway.

**ANSWER:** But I want to just say a couple of things clear. Forget about the larger theological discussion about rights and obligations, family versus media, and forget about criticism of how this unfolded. I'm sure you guys or someone (inaudible) the *Journal* or – and/or the Huffington Post. I did not. And I could explain to you how it happened. I think it's kind of relevant. It was pretty clear to me – I didn't see Anderson Wednesday night, so I don't know what he did or didn't say. But I had CNN on all day long on Thursday from my desk.

It was pretty clear to me that the sourcing was fishing, that someone had crossed the Rubicon in terms of the diary. Forget about right or wrong. I didn't do anything. I mean, I – to be honest with you, until I saw Anderson at 8:18 – I happened to be sitting and watching – it never occurred to me --

**QUESTION:** You're talking about Friday.

**ANSWER:** Friday night, excuse me. So I saw him at 8:18 use the word diary. It never occurred to me that I thought you guys were getting a little clever, a little – probably too cute by half in terms of how you were getting around whatever it was there was and agreed to. But until he said it, I didn't lose my shit. And to be honest with you, the first thing I thought when I saw it was – I had two thoughts. One, I thought it was very

interesting that he just stated the use of the diary. He didn't explain anything beyond that. His statement to me sounded – and to this day sounded – reads like he was addressing a criticism about the sourcing, almost as if he had no idea there was any back story with the diary.

But my second thought was more important. My second thought was maybe [redacted] or the Stevens family got back to CNN. That's possible. I immediately reached out to [redacted] and it took about an hour for him to get back to me, and he said, "No." He said they hadn't been contacted by CNN. They hadn't spoken to CNN. Nothing had changed since last weekend, when this was settled and became a logistical matter. I gave you guys the benefit of the doubt until I heard from [redacted] And it's just been hard to process and to give you the benefit of the doubt since then, you being your network, not you personally.

b6  
b7C

**QUESTION:** I understand. I think --

**ANSWER:** And I just think your various statements since then are more confirmation than anything else. You guys got caught by the *Journal*. And by the way, I don't know if this has been relayed to you, but I'll tell you how the *Journal* knew to call you. I wasn't the only one sitting around my desk on Thursday watching TV and was perplexed.

**QUESTION:** Thursday or Friday?

**ANSWER:** Thursday.

**QUESTION:** What happened Thursday?

**ANSWER:** Well, Thursday was the first full day time that you were reporting on --

**QUESTION:** Oh, the --

**ANSWER:** -- on the al-Qaida – quote, "al-Qaida hit list." And it was being sourced to – so I caught it for the sourcing. But others caught it, including up at DNI, because they just didn't understand, because we were all going to the Hill that afternoon to brief the House and then to brief the Senate.

**QUESTION:** So DNI didn't understand CNN's sources?

**ANSWER:** They weren't thinking about the sources. DNI just didn't – it didn't comport with anything they had. I mean, they had been spending a week scrubbing intelligence, scrubbing thread information. They had said on the record there was no – there was nothing that they didn't – that they missed or they didn't act on.

**QUESTION:** Did DNI see the transcript of the diary?

**ANSWER:** No. No one has, including me. I forwarded it to [redacted] (inaudible).

b6  
b7C

**QUESTION:** Oh my God.

**ANSWER:** I just got lectured an hour ago from someone in your industry that it's been remiss that I haven't and that we haven't, because if it does, in fact, contain information about his killers, then it's a screw-up to not. But that aside, no, no one's read it. So to this moment, no one in the government knows its contents. DNI just didn't understand. They weren't – it wasn't I don't understand how CNN knows. It was what does

CNN know that we don't. It was as completely in an honest attempt to use yet another source to figure out what was going on. So they called a friend at CNN informally, and the friend said, "We have his diary." That's -- so unlucky for CNN, the *Wall Street Journal* was talking to the DNI all week, because they did a huge front-page story about the tic-toc of this. So --

QUESTION: Oh, so *Wall Street Journal* you think heard it from DNI?

ANSWER: I know they did.

QUESTION: Oh, that's fascinating.

ANSWER: I heard about it.

QUESTION: That's fascinating. I never would -- that -- okay. I wouldn't have guessed that in a million years.

ANSWER: And I believe how it unfolded was that the *Wall Street Journal*, in the course of reporting this larger story, said, "Well what about this al-Qaida hit list stuff? Did you guys miss that?" All sorts of questions. And DNI said, "No. We don't know anything about it. We understand it's coming from his diary. We haven't seen it, know anything about it." That's what put the *Journal* on it. It's one of these the-world-is-too-small D.C. things.

QUESTION: That's amazing. (Laughter.)

ANSWER: Anyway.

QUESTION: Wow. That's like right out of a *Homeland* episode. Okay.

ANSWER: So anyway, we are where we are. I -- because I'm talking to you, I'm missing whatever Susanne Kelly (ph) is saying right now.

QUESTION: If she's saying anything, she's saying that -- I think you can listen.

ANSWER: But I do -- I was a little surprised when I saw Mark's (ph) thing. And obviously, they'll be a day when Mark (ph) and I have to sit down and have a drink, and I wish -- Richard Griffiths, I don't give a shit about, I never met him, never heard of him. Mark (ph) and I --

QUESTION: You had a history.

ANSWER: We -- yeah. And it was a good one. I mean, it was --

QUESTION: No, I understand.

ANSWER: And I think he's a reasonable guy. I wish someone else would answer the phone. But a lot of what he said this morning is just not true. So when I saw it in hindsight, it was hard to kind of continue with my it seems like CNN is -- I'm in no way reading into what I'm watching, that you guys are apologizing or changing course. I just think that there's a little bit more thought going into the reporting and how it's being reported. And if Mark (ph) needs to go on the record to do that before you guys could do this, or if I'm totally misreading the tone of the coverage --

**QUESTION:** No. This – we’re trying to separate the two, and if you’ve noticed, other than Mark – or you may not have noticed; you haven’t been watching all day, but (inaudible) this morning because we felt like that --

**ANSWER:** Other than Brooke Baldwin, no one’s used the word diary.

**QUESTION:** When did she use it?

**ANSWER:** Like an hour ago.

**QUESTION:** Yeah. But the – we put Mark on because we didn’t want our reporters to be the person who had to defend, explain, or –

**ANSWER:** Yeah.

**QUESTION:** -- it’s CNN’s – whatever CNN did. It’s not Elise Labott or Wolf Blitzer or John King or Jill Dougherty or Jessica Yellin who should be explaining or defending CNN’s decisions. They’re reporters. They cover the news. They report on whatever the story is that they need to report on, which may turn out to be us in some cases, but they shouldn’t – they’re not CNN’s spokespeople, and so that was the reason that, as this sort of unfolded yesterday, if we’re going – if we were going to discuss it, we had to put somebody on who could explain it, and that’s why it was Mark (ph) rather than – I mean, otherwise --

**ANSWER:** Okay. Fair enough.

**QUESTION:** Anyway. But to my knowledge, we haven’t – CNN and State Department haven’t come up in the same sentence on CNN after that. We just decided that that’s not the story that --

**ANSWER:** No. It’s been very coolheaded, direct, straightforward coverage.

**QUESTION:** We just decided we wanted to – I don’t know if it’s that we wanted to intentionally lower the temperature or if we just decided, you know what, that’s – let others report on that, that --

**ANSWER:** I get it. But why at this point – I mean, you used the term half pregnant. I mean, why not just give birth or – I hate to use the other term, but I mean --

**QUESTION:** Well, you know what? Because from the very beginning we were really actually concerned about the family. You’re holding – at the very beginning – I mean, the moment this happened --

**ANSWER:** Who’s Meredith Edwards (ph), by the way?

**QUESTION:** What’s that?

**ANSWER:** Who’s Meredith Edwards (ph)?

**QUESTION:** Meredith Edwards is, I believe, a senior guest producer who had already had contact with the family. I believe that she – I don’t think it was [REDACTED] it was somebody else – on the – when Stevens died and we were reporting on his death, long before there was a diary, she booked a family member to say

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tell us about [redacted] we want to hear about [redacted] like -- or Chris Stevens. So let's -- as you do with -- in the case when anybody dies, you want to -- it's almost like give us -- it's like a eulogy in real time.

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And so she's the person who had talked with someone in the family to say if there's anybody in the family who would like to talk about Chris, we're doing a lot of coverage and we'd love to hear -- because we'd love to hear. And so a couple -- there were a number of -- a couple of different family members at different times in the immediate aftermath after the attack came on CNN, on the phone, I think, and basically discussed Chris Stevens and told -- said this is what he cared about, this is what he loved, blabedy blah. Meredith Edwards (ph) is the person who had reached out or had that relationship. I believe that is why she was involved, only because she had the numbers and had already been in touch with the family. And when you're in touch with --

**ANSWER:** That was just to satisfy my curiosity, because unfortunately that call that Friday afternoon really had set the tone for everything that followed.

**QUESTION:** Which call?

**ANSWER:** Meredith Edwards (ph) calling [redacted] on Friday --

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**QUESTION:** So was Friday the day of the memorial service?

**ANSWER:** It was not just the day of the memorial. She got to him about 90 minutes after.

**QUESTION:** So this one I still --

**ANSWER:** She didn't just ask -- and it wasn't [redacted] it wasn't [redacted] hi, I'm sorry about the loss of your son, I hate to do this, but I thought you'd be interested to know that we recovered his diary. Obviously, you want it back. Can you tell me what the best way to do that is? She didn't do that. From what I understand from the [redacted] excuse me, the Stevens family is that she said, we have the diary, we're going to report on it, do you have a comment on it? [redacted]

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**QUESTION:** That's interesting.

**ANSWER:** And to further (inaudible) when first heard about this [redacted]

[redacted] When it was relayed to me, I just assumed it was a total garble. It just -- there was just -- it didn't make -- I couldn't fathom that it was true, not the recovery of the diary part, but the someone calling for comment and asking to report. I was shocked, when it turns out that it was true. And it did color everything that came after. But I thought 24 hours later, when CNN handed off the diary to our designee to safeguard it, I thought we were -- I thought everything was set. At that point, it was just a matter of getting it back to them.

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And Richard should just not have – Meredith (ph) should not have phrased it as a request for consent. Richard should not have approached it for a request for consent. You guys had all the data points you needed before Meredith Edwards (ph) even called. You were the only ones, aside from Chris Stevens, who knew what was in the diary. If it was so compelling and you had an obligation to report it, you should have and could have just done so. It's this five, six-day lapse and then the convoluted sourcing and then the weird blaming a leak. It just doesn't make sense.

I mean, I know if I can go back in time there are a couple of things I would do differently. One is I would have recorded the conversation with Richard Griffiths. Because if you would have been party to it or heard it, you wouldn't even try for a moment to explain or defend. You just wouldn't. There were five people on that call, four others and Richard Griffiths. There was no ambiguity.

**QUESTION:** Who were they?

**ANSWER:** Capricia Marshall, [redacted] – excuse me – and I had it on speaker in my office, so my deputy was on. I mean, you might want to impugn our – their objectivity, but we all understand and speak fluent English. (Laughter.) He just came into it – and frankly, in hindsight, when I spoke to Mark (ph) before Richard Griffiths, before Richard Griffiths spoke to [redacted] Mark (ph) and I didn't have a theological conversation either about CNN's right to use. It was also in the framework of the family's consent. And I think that's getting lost here. And that's the only thing – and it's a big thing – but that's the thing that is rubbing us so wrong, that is literally just what we feel is wrong. And it's what the Stevens feel is wrong.

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**QUESTION:** What – how – what do you mean? How would you define it? Like when you say "what's wrong" what is it that they're most upset about?

**ANSWER:** Frankly, I don't know that they're upset as much as their worst feelings towards the media were sort of confirmed. [redacted]

**QUESTION:** I see. That's what you meant by credit. Now I get it.

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**ANSWER:** Yes.

**QUESTION:** Yeah.

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**ANSWER:** So that didn't go – but the conversation – my point is that [redacted]

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[redacted] It's almost worse than a contract, because people break contracts, and they're kind of sterile. This was someone who lost [redacted] only days before in a terrible, terrible manner, and only hours

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before witnessed his body coming off a plane with an American flag on it. And someone said to him we will not do anything with it until you tell us otherwise, and there were three other witnesses to it. It's just, on a humane level, wrong.

I have not – I have – I will question CNN's journalistic actions since this happened on Wednesday night, Thursday. I don't think – if you guys are so confident that you acted within the obligations and responsibilities you have to your own standards, then I don't know why someone just didn't say that right off the bat. I don't know what was with the convoluted sourcing. And I certainly don't know what was with Anderson's statement. And then I don't know what was with Saturday's statement saying that it was because you were getting caught – that people were calling you, reporters were calling you. And then furthermore, I note to this very minute that you've got people off the record telling reporters that there was no request for permission. It just – it's not handling this humanely on that level, and it is not handling it professionally since Wednesday night or Thursday, when you first started to allude to this hit list stuff.

And the notion that we're reacting to the content is crazy. I didn't react – we didn't react until 10 o'clock Friday night, a good 24 – actually more – a good 36 or 48 hours after you started with the hit list stuff. It wasn't a reaction to that.

**QUESTION:** Yeah. That makes sense. Have you heard from the family in the last couple days? b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

**ANSWER:** Yeah. I heard from [ ] like an hour ago. [ ] I just think – and this is me speaking, not them – just whatever you're going to do, do it. This – you said it yourself. You're half pregnant. It doesn't make sense. The contents of the --

**QUESTION:** Did they get it yet, by the way? Have they gotten the book?

**ANSWER:** They got it within – the book, no. Can't get the book out of Benghazi because can't find alternative – the reason we designated the Italians is because we have no one else there. We all evacuated after the attack. We quickly thought of friendly countries and NGOs. It was the Italians and the Finnish. The Italians answered the phone first. They warned us – they said, look we will take this, we will safeguard it under lock and key, but it's not like we're going to Tripoli tomorrow.

And I told that to [ ] right off the bat, and they were fine with it because they – I don't know what Richard sent that I passed on, and I don't know if that satisfied them, but I mean, they understand there are some logistical challenges. b6  
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**QUESTION:** What I'm guessing is that – what I believe is that just simply a typed account of the written words, no – I don't think there are photographs or anything else. I think – I'm presuming –

**ANSWER:** Oh, I don't think so. I don't think --

**QUESTION:** I'm presuming it's --

**ANSWER:** -- your written statement --

**QUESTION:** -- typed --

**ANSWER:** No, your written statement on Saturday said CNN has not shown an image of it, which to me means we have an image of it.

**QUESTION:** I don't know if we do or not.

**ANSWER:** But that aside, I mean --

**QUESTION:** We haven't shown it, but I don't know if we do or not. But I don't believe --

**ANSWER:** Well, one of two --

**QUESTION:** I don't believe Richard had -- I don't believe -- if we did have an image of it, I don't know that we've ever -- that it's ever been -- nobody -- I don't know anyone who's seen it. And I don't -- and I think Richard -- I think all Richard did was type up or have someone -- someone over there typed up the words and sent it in an email, I guess, to --

**ANSWER:** But here's the other -- here's the other thing that no one understands. You guys are the only ones who read the whole thing, and you guys are the ones who wrote the transcript that went to the Stevens family. Let's just for a moment assume that they're identical, that there's nothing in the diary that didn't make its way into the transcript that the Stevens family had within an hour of Richard sending it to me and presumably read it soon after they acknowledged that they got it. How is it that you guys think there's something in there that alludes to Chris being concerned about his personal security that they don't?

**QUESTION:** Because --

**ANSWER:** I would think there's no one in the world -- I would think there's no one in the world who would care more about finding their brother and their son's and their -- the killer than the Stevens family. So if the diary says X was -- I saw X following me this morning, or X told me I am on a hit list --

**QUESTION:** You might want to have them send it to you.

**ANSWER:** I have it. I've just never looked at it. It's not a matter of access. It's a matter -- that's a line that I don't want to cross.

**QUESTION:** Maybe it's in the parts that --

**ANSWER:** I literally have got --

**QUESTION:** -- but maybe it just has personal stuff that has nothing to do with the security or things. I mean --

**ANSWER:** But I guess my point -- the point I'm making is when the Stevens family became aware of the contents of the diary, assuming that the transcript were the full contents, it's not like they called everyone back and said, "Hold on a second, now I see what you guys mean. This stuff is important and needs to be out there. I, at the very least, want the FBI to have it." And if they didn't trust us anymore, if they didn't think we were an honest broker because we knew what the contents were, Tom is the U.S. Attorney. He could (inaudible) 10 people. So what is it that you guys -- and I'm not literally asking this -- but what is it (inaudible)?

**QUESTION:** No, I think you'll see it when you see it, is that there are – there are a few references in there about his concerns about security. You saw the reference now about the fact that he mentions this al-Qaida hit list. Whether he's right or wrong is – who knows? Nobody knows, or what the hell that means.

So I guess the decision here is that – was made that there's – there's plenty in the diary and most of it has – is not newsworthy and will never be revealed by CNN ever. But there are a couple of items that I think that, as I understand the team that put together a report on Wednesday night was careful not to quote directly from, but to either allude to or to use in further reporting, which suggested that at the very least Chris Stevens was worried about security on a number of different levels and explain what those were.

He did not say in there, "The United States is failing to protect me," or whatever. But it raised – it was a data point. It was not a breaking news data point. It was not a – clearly, we didn't say – we didn't have a lead story that said, "United States fails to provide adequate security." That wasn't the story at all. It was: This is interesting; the Ambassador was concerned. I mean, that was kind of the – which is – is newsworthy but is not necessarily in and of itself a breaking news story. We did have other sources, other people. As you know, people have talked with him, met with him – our reporters. You also know Fran Townsend saw him two weeks before in Tripoli.

**ANSWER:** Yeah. No, I spoke to Fran. I think she put it very well, that Chris didn't – Chris didn't feel that he was in danger. But in – she had a great anecdote or analogy that it's – you dump a frog into a boiling pot of water and it senses pain and it jumps out. You put a frog in a pot of water that's room temperature and you bring it up to a boil, the frog doesn't sense it; the frog just stays there and dies.

**QUESTION:** Wow, that's a great analogy.

**ANSWER:** Yeah, I thought it made a lot of sense. But it – she was saying he did not – whatever, I'm bringing that up because you invoked Fran. I mean, Fran --

**QUESTION:** No, it's just an interesting –

**ANSWER:** Fran thought Libya was a shit show. Fran obviously has an expertise in evaluating what she sees on the ground. She said starting from the airport it was a shit show. I'm not going to contest that. I've been to Libya. It was a shit show when we were there. But she, if anything, thought Chris wasn't – kind of the opposite – Chris was not – he himself was probably not taking or appreciating the situation for what it is.

So look, we don't know everything. We don't know even what we don't know. There's a reason why multiple agencies are looking into this. And you guys play an important part of that. Again, there's no question about rights. It's just I really would like to hope that to do it all again, you guys would have done a few things differently.

**QUESTION:** Listen, the whole thing with – I mean, just think about the timing. Just think about the timing of when – whether it was Meredith or Richard called. So this all happened – the diary came out the evening before. So here they are on the day of – was it Friday? Friday was the day of the memorial service? Whatever it was. So here now we have this thing. On the one hand, we need to tell them as soon as possible, because not a day or a minute should go past without them knowing we have this because it's important that they know. And certainly from our perspective, we don't want anyone to think that we delayed in getting information to the family that we had this.

At the same time, that was the day that his body came back to Andrews and it was – we took that ceremony live and it was – all around the world. And just sitting around CNN, people stopped. Everyone stopped. People were crying. It was – you couldn't watch it and not be touched, even if you never met the guy, and most people hadn't. So do you tell them today? Do you tell them tomorrow? Do you tell them on Monday? I don't know. I mean, I don't know what the right answer is. And I'm not –

**ANSWER:** I know. But you don't – you don't have a --

**QUESTION:** And you're (inaudible).

**ANSWER:** You don't have a guest – you don't have a booker call. That's step one. Step two is Mark's statement this morning is disingenuous, and Anderson's was Friday night. It's not like when I called Mark if he said, "Look, obviously there's some stuff to talk about like usage." Even if he just meant explain to you why we're going to use it. There were no – like when I said I want to talk to a human being about the mechanics of getting this back, he said, oh don't worry, this is already on a bus to Tripoli and then from there we're going to do X. There was no mechanism moving until I pushed it at about 11 o'clock at night, which sounds like maybe 12 hours after you had it. So this notion of the call to family and got it back to them immediately is really not correct.

**QUESTION:** No, no, I don't think that – but I think that the notion that we call the family to try to figure out how to get it back to them immediately –

**ANSWER:** And Meredith just took the opportunity to also ask for permission to report on it and for a comment? And it was obviously the conversation didn't go over well, or the Stevens family wouldn't have called us. But for them calling us, we would have no idea until we turned on CNN and said oh look, they have a diary.

**QUESTION:** That makes sense, yes. I have not talked with Meredith. I don't think she – I even know her.

**ANSWER:** Is she in D.C. or Atlanta?

**QUESTION:** I don't know. I think Atlanta, but it could be New York. Not D.C. Like I said, as you can tell, I don't know her.

**ANSWER:** All right. Well, I'm glad we talked. Thank you for calling.

**QUESTION:** Well, like I said, I – call this the red phone, called up the hotline, whatever. Whether it's on this subject – maybe – maybe it will be on this subject, or it's on anything else, you and I have known each other for 20 years and we have a good relationship. And there are times that we need to talk no matter what, whether – I'm not going to – I don't even have an opinion on so many of these things because I just – it's so – it's so complicated and so convoluted, and I think that a lot of people would like a lot of do-overs. But nevertheless, we still –

**ANSWER:** Well, if you want to communicate to – I would say three things.

One, to Mark, that I regret this went on between he and I. I wish that it was someone else that I didn't respect and actually like. But it is what it is.

Two, did not – we had no reaction whatsoever until Anderson acknowledged on air the use of the diary and the Stevens family confirmed to us that they had not had any contact with CNN to grant that permission.

And three, in terms of where we go from here, I sent that note last night. I hope the tone came through. Anything –

**QUESTION:** Hopefully, that's why I instantly said let's talk.

**ANSWER:** Yeah. Anything you see that's of a different tone is either something I said yesterday – I have to admit I did a ABC (ph) interview that I believe people think happened today. It did not --

**QUESTION:** I listened to that. I thought that was a very fair interview, by the way.

**ANSWER:** It happened 24 hours ago.

**QUESTION:** I still thought it was a fair interview.

**ANSWER:** It was worth it. It was worth it just so I could be called "chap" by the other guy. But I've not said anything – I frankly did not say anything on the record except regarding (inaudible) problem in itself. But I've – one of the terms I learned in this job is the need to create space for people to do what they're going to do. I am trying to create that space. I sent that note. You guys seemed to have done whatever you've done today, and I'm going to key off of that.

**QUESTION:** Well, we've spent much of – all of today basically not talking about it. So other than Mark's short segment earlier, it's just not been – it's just not been a topic of conversation.

**ANSWER:** Yeah.

**QUESTION:** So there we are, at least for now.

**ANSWER:** Okay.

**QUESTION:** Let's keep the nuclear hotline open. That's always healthy. And if there's something that we're grossly missing or you see people's feathers getting up and in a counterproductive way, yeah --

**ANSWER:** I appreciate that.

**QUESTION:** All right. Thanks

**ANSWER:** Thanks, (inaudible).

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From: [REDACTED] (PACE) [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2012 7:57 PM  
To: [REDACTED] (PACE); PA PRS Issues  
Cc: [REDACTED] (PACE); [REDACTED] b6  
[REDACTED] PA FO Core; PA OBS\_BS&P; PA RPT.Group; [REDACTED] b7C  
Subject: [REDACTED] (PA); Toner, Mark C  
Attachments: DRAFT TRANSCRIPT: SSDOs on Secretary's Bilateral Meetings  
Background TRIP (9-24-12) Senior Official on Secretary's Bilateral Meetings.doc

The draft transcript of the background briefing is attached and saved in the Special Briefings/Other DOS Officials/Other folder, titled "Background TRIP (9-24-2012) Senior Official on Secretary's Bilateral Meetings." The audio for proofing is called "Background Readout Pak Libya Afghan 9-24-12.wma."

Editor, please confirm receipt.

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Office of the Spokesperson**

**For Immediate Release**

2012/XX

September 24, 2012

**BACKGROUND BRIEFING**

**Senior State Department Officials on Secretary Clinton's Bilateral Meetings**

**September 24, 2012  
Waldorf Astoria Hotel  
New York**

**UNEDITED/DRAFT**

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** All right, everybody. Thank you for your patience. We are here to give you some background information on some of the Secretary's bilateral meetings today. I will give you a readout on her meeting with Libyan President of the Governing National Council Magariaf and then [Senior State Department Official Two], who is [title withheld], will give you a readout on her meetings with President Karzai and President Zardari and a little bit of a broader sense of where we are in our relationship with both Afghanistan and Pakistan. I am hereafter Senior State Department Official Number One, and [Senior State Department Official Two] is Senior State Department Official Number Two.

So, first of all, with President Magariaf, I think a number of you got a chance to see the very warm and heartfelt public statements that were made at the top of the meeting, starting with a recognition of the very difficult days for both the United States and Libya following the attack in Benghazi and the loss of Ambassador Stevens and our three other diplomats, and the absolutely firm commitment on both sides, on the American side and on the Libyan side, not, as the Secretary has said, to allow Libya's hopes and dreams to be hijacked by extremists or hijacked by a mob. In that context, the conversation obviously started on the subject of

security. The President and the Secretary reviewed the work that the United States has been doing to try to support Libya's effort to rein in the militias, to deal with MANPADS and other excess weapons from the Qadhafi era, to ensure that chemical weapons are secured. The Secretary offered to intensify our support and help for the Libyan Government in all of those areas.

The – President Magariaf spoke of two fundamental threats to Libyan security: the first, the threat from extremists with their own agendas; the second, a threat from remnants of the Qadhafi era; and he said that security is their government's absolute highest priority. He also spoke about concerns about the borders and the importance of being able to work well with neighbors to secure borders so that they can't be – the porousness can't be abused either by Qadhafi era remnants or by extremists, and asked for the United States's help in their continued effort to build good cooperation with their neighbors in this regard.

They then went on and talked about the economic challenges of, as the Secretary put it, helping Libya to build a 21<sup>st</sup> century economy. The Secretary talked at some length about our desire to encourage increased U.S. investment in Libya along the lines that we've been also doing in Tunisia and in Egypt to bring U.S. business people to Libya again. President Magariaf spoke about wanting to diversify the Libyan economy so it's not just petrochemical dependent but to make it a truly 21<sup>st</sup> century economy, picking up on her phrase.

The Secretary also talked about the challenge of writing a permanent constitution that stands ahead of Libya and our hope and expectation that it'll have strong protections for the human rights of all the highest rule of law standards and justice. She also raised PanAm 103, as she does in all meetings with senior Libyans, and requested continued cooperation as we keep working on that issue together.

Why don't we go to you, [Senior State Department Official Two], on Afghanistan and Pakistan.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** Okay. Thanks, and sorry to keep everyone waiting. The bilateral with President Karzai actually went quite long, so I just returned from that. Let me give you just kind of broad overviews of both the bilateral meetings today and then try to put it in a slightly broader framework as well.

The meeting with President Karzai lasted, I guess, probably close to an hour. It started off with the discussion about the aftermath of the video incident and our appreciation to the Afghans for helping to keep violence from that incident down to a minimal amount, and President Karzai appreciated that.

It went through kind of an assessment of where we are broadly right now on the road through transition in 2014. Obviously, we just completed the drawdown of the surge troops, and we are continuing our commitments through 2014 and then into the transformation decade that follows.

Obviously, the issue of insider attacks came up, and we talked about the continuing need – although I would defer on this to my Defense Department colleagues on the military end – but the need to continue to work through these issues and the joint interests of Afghans and American citizens in building a strong and stable Afghan National Security Force which can help to – which will contribute to a stable political future for Afghanistan.

Part of that political stability is premised on the Strategic Partnership Agreement which we signed earlier in the year, and that was raised, including next steps from the SPA, as we call it. One of those is that it talked about the beginning of a bilateral security commission, which would start the process of negotiating a bilateral security agreement. And we've been working on the very beginning points of that discussion and that will



start next week. And on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, we'll have our first meeting. It's still, for those of you who follow the weeds of this, we were given about a year from the time negotiations started – this is not the formal start of negotiations, but it's the beginning of the path to negotiations on the bilateral security agreement. So another positive development in how we are kind of jointly working through our – the issues of mutual concern.

Obviously, as it always does, a political resolution and reconciliation also came up. And on this point, Ambassador Grossman noted that he had just finished convening the eighth meeting of the core group at his level between Afghanistan and Pakistan and the U.S., which in part had follow-up reports from several of the working groups that they tested out their last meeting. One of these was a meeting of the safe passage working group, which was first hosted in Islamabad just two weeks ago, and looks at the possibility to facilitate movements of Taliban for those who wish at some point down the road to join any sort of reconciliation discussion.

So at this point it's working through the theoretical and legal frameworks and seeing where we can continue to – how we can continue to best facilitate any process down the road.

And then I think significantly, because President Karzai talked about the broader political, strategic, and economic issues at play in any sort of longer-term stability for his country, I wanted to make sure that this wasn't seen as a bilateral meeting in some sort of isolation. There's actually a number of meetings happening in the course of this week that build on the very firm foundation that we have set over the course of the past year. And many of you will be familiar with the kind of series of major ministerial meetings, summits, and others that we've held.

One last Thanksgiving was the Istanbul Conference, which provided a regional framework for including very specific economic and political confidence-building mechanisms. And it was at the beginning of a process that was followed up in Kabul this past summer, and right now in fact, Ambassador Grossman is at a meeting of senior officials to continue with that Istanbul process and assess where we are on some of those confidence-building mechanisms.

Similarly, as you know, we laid the foundation in Chicago for contributions to the Afghan national security forces, and then in Tokyo, we did the complementary piece on the economic and civilian assistance side with commitments of \$4 billion a year for four years. So into this transformation decade showing that the international community will continue to stand by Afghanistan. And there was a meeting tomorrow, which will continue to look at the mutual accountability framework, commitments that Afghanistan made, as well as where the international community is.

And President Karzai asked about the possibility of continuing to attract economic investment; there was recently an investment conference in Delhi with over 400 companies there, and in fact, just this morning Deputy Secretary Nides kicked off his day with a meeting of about a dozen American companies who are already investing or are thinking of investing in Afghanistan.

So this is all part of a much broader framework where, as the Secretary noted in the bilateral, there's been a very steady, positive growth of this state in Afghanistan over the course of certainly the last decade, but even now just the past few years. And our goal now is really to continue to build on that, how to consolidate those gains, and ensure that we build on those successes.

On Pakistan, Secretary met with President Zardari this morning. But it follows on a series of high-level meetings that we've had over the course of the last few months, which have really resulted in part by – from

the success of reopening the Ground Lines of Communication at the beginning of the summer, and it really paved the way for a kind of reenergized dialogue at senior levels.

So Secretary Clinton last met with Foreign Minister Khar in Tokyo when they were at the Tokyo conference in early July, and had another --

**QUESTION:** Wait. Didn't they meet on Friday?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** Last -- before this past meeting. Sorry, I was just getting to the point where Foreign Minister Khar then came.

After Ambassador Grossman's visit to Islamabad in Kabul last weekend, then Foreign Minister Khar spent most of last week in Washington. She had a series of, I think, very constructive and very honest meetings with key senators and House members. She did a range of civil society and think tank meetings, including the Council on Foreign Relations. And then she had about a two hour bilateral meeting with Secretary Clinton on Friday.

And that really covered the waterfront in terms of our issues and many of those were addressed again today with President Zardari. Again, we started off, given the primacy in all of our minds on security of personnel --

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** Are you on Zardari or Khar now? You're on Zardari.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** I'm on Zardari, although I will let you know on the Khar piece of it, which was -- because it was a lot longer, was -- gone into more of the specific issues as well.

The meeting today with President Zardari started again on the recent violence caused by the video. We have had extremely good support from Pakistani security sources in protecting our posts and our personnel, and we spent quite a bit of time talking about the violence throughout the region. The Secretary was unequivocal in stating that those who provoke violence cannot be tolerated, and it undermines the sovereignty of states, and we all must stand against violence. And there was complete concurrence by Pakistani leadership, not only by President Zardari who was there, but by senior members of his government and senior leaders of coalition parties who joined them, that there was zero tolerance for both violence and extremism. So on this issue, they were very united.

The Pakistanis have said several times that they appreciated very much both the President and the Secretary's statements about the video and the statements from our senior officials about its offensiveness and how it's been reprehensible, but that it is no justification for violence. And the first part of our meeting was dedicated to that.

In a kind of further, smaller-group session between President Zardari and Secretary Clinton, they talked about continued counterterrorism cooperation, including our continuing efforts to squeeze the Haqqani Network. And as you all know, we recently designated the Haqqani Network as a foreign terrorist organization. There was talk about religious freedoms. There was continued discussion, as there was with President Karzai on Afghanistan, on reconciliation. And again, we spoke about some of the things I just mentioned: the core group, the Safe Passage Working Group. And of note is the last core group before today's, which was in Tokyo, held at the ministerial level, which, for the first time, all three countries jointly called on Taliban to join the peace process. And building on that statement as well, notably Prime Minister Ashraf made his first foreign trip as Prime Minister to Kabul, and we will continue to look for ways that we cooperate on this issue.

And then lastly, also mirroring the Afghan conversation, was talk of our economic relationship and the relationship between the Pakistani people and the American people. Of note right now is the launch by the Secretary Clinton of the U.S.-Pakistan Women's Council as part of her event at 4 o'clock, which is meant to build opportunities for Pakistani women and both U.S. and Pakistani businesses. There was discussion of some of the private sector investment vehicles that we've tried to design to encourage further investment, including something which we just announced, the PPII, the Pakistan Private Investment Initiative; ongoing civilian assistance that we're giving to Pakistan, including a recent commitment to help repave some key roads leading to Afghanistan which are particularly used in the movement of supplies to Afghanistan; and the very welcome growing trade relationship between Pakistan and India even as noted in the recent visit of the Commerce – the recent discussion of the Commerce Secretary's administrators.

And from all this we are continuing to try to focus and hone and build on our bilateral relationship. Many of you remember the working groups that we established a little while ago. We have committed to three or four of the most significant ones meeting before the end of the year.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** The counterterrorism working group?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** The first – they're all working groups. The very first one that I think will meet is the one on counterterrorism and law enforcement, which will address counter IEDs, which came up as well today and on Friday. We'll also look at – to ones on the economy and market access issues, and we hope to also sign a bilateral investment treaty by the end of the year, as well as issues on the defense consultative group and potentially a nonproliferation group.

So there's a lot that we're re-energizing at this point. I don't think anyone wants to set expectations too high or too broad. But I think the general trajectory is certainly one that we've worked very, very hard on, particularly Secretary Clinton and Foreign Minister Khar, and which we're all trying to further.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** Great. Let's go to questions. Just to underscore a point that [Senior Department Official Two] made, I think with regard to both Afghanistan and Pakistan, you have not only these meetings that happen at the level of Secretary, head of state, but you have a huge amount happening at the Marc Grossman level, at the delegation level, particularly as we get these various working groups and security and economic agenda items moved forward.

Go ahead.

**QUESTION:** Can I ask specifically about the meeting with Zardari and your discussion of the Haqqani Network? You said you spoke about your efforts to squeeze them. Since the FTO designation, and even previous to that, there haven't been any recent comments by Pakistani officials suggesting that they will take any further action against them. What was the message today?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** We've continued to speak very substantively over the course of at least the last year. And I remember when Secretary Clinton was there last fall, she gave several specific examples of what squeezing the Haqqani Network would look like, and we continue to talk about ways we could pursue that together. And many of these working groups will provide some opportunities to continue to build on that, so –

**QUESTION:** But the President didn't say anything today about Pakistan taking any action at all to step up –

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** I think we're not going to characterize President Zardari's side of the conversation. We'll let him do that. But her remarks, obviously, were very much in keeping with where she's been. Let's use these working groups to really dig in --

**QUESTION:** She pressed him. He -- you're not saying what he said?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** We're not going to characterize his views.

**QUESTION:** You -- did she -- did she raise this Railway Minister offering a \$100,000 bounty for the producer of the film, and did she say that that's out of line and you guys should get rid of him?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** The Pakistanis actually raised that at the very outset of the conversation in the general discussion about not tolerating anyone who provokes violence. We've said very clearly and explicitly that the statements were inflammatory and a completely unacceptable threat, and we were very pleased with the series of statements that have come back from the Pakistanis. Both the Prime Minister's spokesman and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have both very publically disassociated the Pakistani Government from those statements.

And as part of the delegation today was the leader of the party, the ANP, which the Railway Minister is part of, who also very explicitly disassociated his party from those statements and said they were absolutely the individual views of a single person, and the party would meet soon to decide what to do with that minister.

**QUESTION:** In terms of -- well, the party would. But what about (inaudible)? Wouldn't firing the guy be --

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** Well, the governments did issue their statement --

**QUESTION:** Did they say no tolerance?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** Well, no --

**QUESTION:** I know, but I mean that's -- no tolerance would be -- I mean, this guy basically called for someone to be murdered.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** And -- right. And the Prime Minister and the MFA -- and I think you'll see continued statements on this -- were unequivocal.

**QUESTION:** (Inaudible) still have some (inaudible).

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** Right, but you have to also look at the --

**QUESTION:** Well (inaudible) was no tolerance (inaudible)?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** But you also have to look at it in the context of their coalition government. And so they may not --

**QUESTION:** Why?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** They have said --

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** Matt, I think the expectation, based on the conversation that we had, was that the party will make its decisions and that will have an impact on the larger question of how this is dealt with.

**QUESTION:** Okay. So you're --

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** Okay.

**QUESTION:** You're comfortable characterizing what you -- what they said, but not what Zardari said about the Haqqanis?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** I think we've given you what we can on this. Anybody else?

**QUESTION:** Well, can I follow on that? Because I'm, like, not quite sure what all this means. So did the Secretary -- you said that they brought it up.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** Mm-hmm.

**QUESTION:** Did -- first of all, was it President Zardari that brought it up? And did the Secretary actually ask him to do anything to the Railway Minister or make some statement in his own name disavowing it? And what is your expectation of the Pakistani Government writ large in its responsibility here to follow up on that?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** The President raised it at the outset of the meeting, as we had the more -- the broader conversation about violence and recent protests and the aftermath of it. It was part of the broader discussion when they talked about, as I said, that anyone that provokes violence cannot be tolerated, and that was echoed on by both delegations. And we are in further conversations, including with several of the ministers there and leaders of the various parties. They not only all completely disassociate themselves from it, but said that it was a process, an internal process that would continue to play out and that they were addressing. And we were comfortable with that response.

**QUESTION:** So that -- but that's your -- that's a global response to that, which is one of the things I asked you. But specifically on Zardari, did he say he would disavow it when she asked him?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** It started with this whole conversation in which President Zardari drew her attention to the government's statements disavowing the comments. So it started on the affirmative with him. And then there were several people in the delegation who spoke to it, including the party leader --

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** Right.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** And as [Senior State Department Official Two] has said, the understanding was that this would now be handled internally, and we'll see how it goes. Okay?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** But there was certainly -- and again, I don't want to speak for them either, and I think that they will continue to speak to this in the coming days, but they were very clear that they felt that they had taken among the strongest actions possible thus far in terms of repudiating and

disassociating the parties and the government from these statements, and that the rest, in terms of whatever may happen on his job, was a matter for their internal domestic processes to take care of.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** Let's go over here. Steve.

**QUESTION:** I want to go to Libya.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** Yep.

**QUESTION:** If anyone wants --

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** Well, shall we finish on Pakistan first? Yeah.

**QUESTION:** On the video itself that -- their spokesman yesterday said that they intend to call for international legislation against such incidents, so did they actually raise something like that in the meeting?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** That was not discussed in any part of the meeting. I am not aware that it was discussed in any part of the meeting. I know that there have been some suggestions about this, and we'll have to see how it plays out over the course of this week. But we also talked about our freedoms and the sanctity with which we hold them as well.

**QUESTION:** Okay. And with regards to Afghanistan and the reconciliation effort, Afghanistan and Pakistan recently have been trading allegations of cross-border insurgency. Was that discussed? And are -- or did you raise anything that you're happy with the cooperation that you are receiving in terms of border cooperation mechanism from Pakistan?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** It was part of the broader discussion on their bilateral relationship between Afghanistan and Pakistan, and I think we are all working towards continuing the positive trajectory that that is on as well. And certainly, Pakistan has been more engaged on the reconciliation side, including posting this Safe Passage Working Group just recently and Prime Minister Ashraf's visit to Kabul recently. And we'll continue to build on that, and I think there's a recognition of that on the Afghan side as well.

**QUESTION:** And just lastly, you -- earlier you said that in the meeting with the Foreign Minister Khar, there were some specifics that were discussed. So if you could just elaborate on that.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** There's a whole range of issues. She had spent her -- as I mentioned, she had at least three separate meetings with a series of Hill members, and they had raised a number of issues with her, and she discussed some of those. She discussed some of the ongoing civilian assistance and economic initiatives, including energy needs and some of the things that we'll discuss in the working groups, and then the broader regional issues as well. So it was just -- there was a lot covered over the course of that two hours. We didn't linger on any particular topic, and so those are what she discussed.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** Paul.

**QUESTION:** Did President Zardari or any other Pakistani official urge the U.S. to do anything more to prevent incidents like this film or taking action against the people who created it?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** Beyond the broad frame that I just told you about, condemning all those who provoke violence, there was not any specific action requested.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** Andy.

**QUESTION:** Did drone strikes come up from either side, either in – with the President Zardari meeting or in the Khar meeting?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** As you know, we don't talk about such a thing.

Margaret.

**QUESTION:** Was there conversation in either of the meetings about the impact of the Haqqani designation on reconciliation efforts?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** We've actually been quite pleased with the response in both countries on the designation, and we'll continue to build on it.

**QUESTION:** So it was discussed?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** It was –

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** I think that it's fair to say that it had been discussed before the designation was made, that they could expect this, and that it was something that we felt we needed to do in order to be able to go after the sources of funding, et cetera, for the Haqqani Network. So by the time it actually happened, I think it's fair to say, [Senior State Department Official Two], that it wasn't a surprise.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** Absolutely. As I briefed immediately after the designation, this was something that we wanted to keep the Pakistani Government in very close touch about. And so we had raised it with a variety of senior civilian, military, intelligence leadership and worked with them through this. So by the time of these meetings of the past few days, it hasn't been an issue.

**QUESTION:** Well, isn't the reason that they're happy with – or you were happy with their response because – I'm sorry. Let me formulate this again. The Pakistanis are under the assumption that they have zero added obligations as a result of this FTO designation. Have you told them anything to suggest otherwise?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** I think you'd have to get the Pakistani response on what their obligations are.

**QUESTION:** I do have – yeah. I mean, in fact, they've said that. I mean, the Foreign Minister said that last week, that she doesn't – they're – you told them ahead of time that's done, it was done for U.S. reasons, and boom, so what for them.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** But I mean, I would also look to the press release that the Embassy issued here noting that they were foreign fighters, going squarely into the parliamentary recommendations on the expulsion of foreign fighters and that Pakistani soil should not be used to launch attacks on others. So I think that the response thus far has actually been very constructive.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** Anything else on Afghanistan, Pakistan?

Please.

**QUESTION:** Yeah. On Pakistan, can you just clarify –

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** Can you tell us who you are?

**QUESTION:** Josh Gerstein with Politico. You said there was a general discussion of not tolerating anyone who provoked violence. Were you intending to encompass in that both the Railway Minister's comments and the original act of posting this video? And was the theme of this discussion that both kinds of acts should be considered in parallel and similar sanctions should apply to both kinds of acts?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** I think it was focused much more on the Pakistani side of that at that point in the conversation, although it was part of a broader discussion on the obligations of government leaders to speak out about this writ large. Is that accurate?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** That's about right. Yeah.

Please.

**QUESTION:** Was there any discussion about Pakistani Prime Minister getting onto the national TV (inaudible) and declaring the holiday to (inaudible)? Was there any discussion about that (inaudible)?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** There wasn't in this set of meetings. I think we – I think I said at the time that we weren't going to get into their internal decisions about holidays, but we wanted to see any protests that occurred be maximally peaceful. I think we have also said, including in the context of this meeting, that we worked very well with the Pakistanis to protect all of our diplomatic missions, and we were very appreciative of the seriousness with which they took security, notwithstanding the fact that there was some violence and some loss of life, obviously.

**QUESTION:** The other one is about trilateral talks which are going to be held here between UK, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. Are you supporting of that talks? And what kind of results you will expect out of those trilateral talks?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** Absolutely. We're completely supportive of any number of other talks that engage the Afghans and Pakistanis. I couldn't begin to tell you what the expectation is out of them, but as Ambassador Grossman has said many times, the goal in the reconciliation effort is to get Afghans speaking with other Afghans about the future of Afghanistan. And there are many ways and many channels to try to pursue that. And our avenues are one of them, and – but if others have other avenues, we certainly welcome those as well. And the most important piece of it is the Afghan ownership of this, and given that, then we're extremely supportive of this.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** Anne\*.

**QUESTION:** Was there any discussion of this being her last meeting with either them? Is it your expectation that it is, in fact, the last time she will see them?



**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** We didn't talk about any scheduling issues.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** Way, way too much work to do. 'There was -- there were no goodbye hugs here. We've got a lot of work to do in the four months ahead.

**QUESTION:** Was there any discussion on the forthcoming elections in Pakistan?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** There was discussion in general that it's an electoral season in both countries. Obviously that's not a surprise.

Jo.

**QUESTION:** So is it your sense then that Pakistani-U.S. ties are now much more on an even keel and you're actually going to move upwards and forwards, or are they still just sort of stagnant and just moving along on a (inaudible) level?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** I would certainly say that they're moving upwards in a positive direction. I don't, again, want to overestimate and oversell what's occurred. I mean, we're -- I think we've been working at a very diligent, disciplined, workmen-like manner over the course of these last 18 months, which have been very difficult, and especially over the last several months, since we've had this opening opportunity again, given the ground lines of communication, to get this back on track.

And I think they're reinvigorated, but we're looking at very specific, discrete, incremental steps that we can show that by acting together jointly, we can pursue many of our shared interests. And that's what these targeted few working groups are seeking to do. That's what these continued high-level meetings, working-level meetings are continuing to do. And I'm very comfortable with the direction that this is headed. But we're not -- we want to be realistic and clear-eyed about all this.

**QUESTION:** Can I ask on Afghanistan, on the Bilateral Security Commission? I got lost a little bit on -- you had -- you spoke about the talks that are happening next week, which aren't the start of the formal negotiations but would lead -- would be talks to lead to the formal talks?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** I think that the Strategic Partnership Agreement laid out that the -- a bilateral security agreement should be pursued and that it would have -- the goal was to have it completed within one year of negotiations starting. And this is just --

**QUESTION:** This was from the start of the last --

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** This is from the -- no, no. The Strategic Partnership Agreement signed by President Obama when he went there earlier in the year --

**QUESTION:** Right.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** -- called for a bilateral security agreement, which would -- with the goal of that being completed one year after negotiations started. To start the bilateral security agreement, we first have to have some meetings with the Bilateral Security Commission. That commission is meeting for the first time next year, and we are each appointing lead negotiators. And that will start the process of leading to the first negotiation of the BSA. So it's a technical --

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** It's talks about talks. (Laughter.)

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** It's a technical point, but we're not starting the tolling of that year next week.

**QUESTION:** Okay.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** But it is a positive step that we are going down that road.

**QUESTION:** Because they're on track eventually.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** Yes.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** Just remember that – yeah. Just remember that our – we operate in the current security environment under a Status of Forces Agreement that takes you to the time when security is fully in the hands of the Afghans, at the end of 2014. So we need something that will replace that as our sort of permanent security arrangement, if that's fair to say, [Senior State Department Official Two].

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** Yes.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** And this has to be negotiated, and it has to be negotiated before the end of 2014. And there was – and to try to do it within 12 months from the start of it. So this is preparatory to all of that.

**QUESTION:** Okay.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** If that makes sense. Okay. Going back to Libya.

**QUESTION:** On Libya. The – you mentioned that in the meeting with the President that you discussed reining in militias, MANPADS, the chemical weapons side, and that you wanted to intensify support in all those areas. Other than the Marine FAST team that's gone in or the FBI, which is conducting the investigation, have you been able to resume any of the military or security cooperation since the attack?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** My understanding – and I don't have as many details as I should; I'll see if I can get you a few more. But my understanding is that some of these training programs that we have been doing for Libyans have continued through this period. We'd like to do even more. As you know, this has been – we've had an interim government and there were some questions about how many decisions they could take about how they were going to approach security.

But it's certainly clear in all the conversations that we've had in the last two weeks and in the way President Magariaf was postured today that there is an appreciation and a commitment to accelerating the work that they are doing internally on their security. And among other things, he spoke very eloquently about the fact that the Libyan people are demanding to have a better sense of security.

**QUESTION:** Just on a – I don't know if logistical is the right word, but are you able now to get more personnel back into at least the Embassy in Tripoli?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** I don't think that we've got difficulty posting people in Tripoli for these things. And generally, these training programs are done by – teams come in for a short period to do that work or we bring Libyans to the States or to Europe for training, so all of that is continuing.

**QUESTION:** But let me ask another way. If I recall, right after the attack, you withdrew all but a skeleton crew from –

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** Oh, I see what you're saying.

**QUESTION:** I mean, Benghazi entirely and from Tripoli there were just a few left. Have you now been able to send back a more robust if not complete mission?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** I don't think we're back to full staffing in Tripoli, but I don't have any sense that it has impacted negatively on our ability to provide security training to the extent that the Libyans are ready to have it.

**QUESTION:** [Senior State Department Official One], can I just follow up? I know the constraints that you're under discussing the U.S. probe into what's happening in Benghazi, but the Libyans have their own. Did the Secretary ask for – did President Magariaf volunteer where they are with their probe? I mean, he talked on the TV last week about 50 people being arrested. Did they discuss that at all?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** We are very focused in our work with them on this investigation, on the work that the FBI will do with them. So to the extent that the FBI leads, they're the investigative agency, it wasn't her place to get into the details.

**QUESTION:** Are there any Americans – American personnel in Benghazi now?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** No.

Please.

**QUESTION:** Just on the point that you raised, that the President had said that they see two threats – one is from extremists and they have their agenda, and two is from remnants of the Qadhafi regime – was there any indication that the two are working together or is there any concern that there could be an alliance between the two?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** I'll let the Libyans speak to how they might see those things, but he spoke in terms of these two streams that they are watching and working on.

Anything else? Okay, thanks guys. And thank you very much [Senior State Department Official Two].

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Office of the Spokesperson

~~For Immediate Release~~  
2012/XX

September 24, 2012

BACKGROUND BRIEFING

Senior State Department Officials on Secretary Clinton's Bilateral Meetings

September 24, 2012  
Waldorf Astoria Hotel  
New York

~~UNEDITED DRAFT~~

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** All right, everybody. Thank you for your patience. We are here to give you some background information on some of the Secretary's bilateral meetings today. I will give you a readout on her meeting with Libyan President of the Governing National Council Magariaf and then [Senior State Department Official Two], who is [title withheld], will give you a readout on her meetings with President Karzai and President Zardari and a little bit of a broader sense of where we are in our relationship with both Afghanistan and Pakistan. I am hereafter Senior State Department Official Number One, and [Senior State Department Official Two] is Senior State Department Official Number Two.

So, first of all, with President Magariaf, I think a number of you got a chance to see the very warm and heartfelt public statements that were made at the top of the meeting, starting with a recognition of the very difficult days for both the United States and Libya following the attack in Benghazi and the loss of Ambassador Stevens and our three other diplomats, and the absolutely firm commitment on both sides, on the American side and on the Libyan side, not, as the Secretary has said, to allow Libya's hopes and dreams to be hijacked by extremists or hijacked by a mob. In that context, the conversation obviously started on the subject of security. The President and the Secretary reviewed the work that the United States has been doing to try to support Libya's effort to rein in the militias, to deal with MANPADS and other excess weapons from the Qadhafi era, to ensure that chemical weapons are secured. The Secretary offered to intensify our support and help for the Libyan Government in all of those areas.

The -- President Magariaf spoke of two fundamental threats to Libyan security: the first, the threat from extremists with their own agendas; the second, a threat from remnants of the Qadhafi era, and he said that security is their government's absolute highest priority. He also spoke about concerns about the borders and the importance of being able to work well with neighbors to secure borders so that they can't be -- the porousness can't be abused either by Qadhafi era remnants or by extremists, and asked for the United States's help in their continued effort to build good cooperation with their neighbors in this regard.

They then went on and talked about the economic challenges of, as the Secretary put it, helping Libya to build a 21<sup>st</sup> century economy. The Secretary talked at some length about our desire to encourage increased U.S. investment in Libya along the lines that we've been also doing in Tunisia and in Egypt to bring U.S. business people to Libya again. President Magariaf spoke about wanting to diversify the Libyan economy so it's not just petrochemical dependent but to make it a truly 21<sup>st</sup> century economy, picking up on her phrase.

The Secretary also talked about the challenge of writing a permanent constitution that stands ahead of Libya and our hope and expectation that it'll have strong protections for the human rights of all the highest rule of law standards and justice. She also raised PanAm 103, as she does in all meetings with senior Libyans, and requested continued cooperation as we keep working on that issue together.

Why don't we go to you, [Senior State Department Official Two], on Afghanistan and Pakistan.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** Okay. Thanks, and sorry to keep everyone waiting. The bilateral with President Karzai actually went quite long, so I just returned from that. Let me give you just kind of broad overviews of both the bilateral meetings today and then try to put it in a slightly broader framework as well.

The meeting with President Karzai lasted, I guess, probably close to an hour. It started off with the discussion about the aftermath of the video incident and our appreciation to the Afghans for helping to keep violence from that incident down to a minimal amount, and President Karzai appreciated that.

It went through kind of an assessment of where we are broadly right now on the road through transition in 2014. Obviously, we just completed the drawdown of the surge troops, and we are continuing our commitments through 2014 and then into the transformation decade that follows.

Obviously, the issue of insider attacks came up, and we talked about the continuing need – although I would defer on this to my Defense Department colleagues on the military end – but the need to continue to work through these issues and the joint interests of Afghans and American citizens in building a strong and stable Afghan National Security Force which can help to – which will contribute to a stable political future for Afghanistan.

Part of that political stability is premised on the Strategic Partnership Agreement which we signed earlier in the year, and that was raised, including next steps from the SPA, as we call it. One of those is that it talked about the beginning of a bilateral security commission, which would start the process of negotiating a bilateral security agreement. And we've been working on the very beginning points of that discussion and that will start next week. And on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, we'll have our first meeting. It's still, for those of you who follow the weeds of this, we were given about a year from the time negotiations started – this is not the formal start of negotiations, but it's the beginning of the path to negotiations on the bilateral security agreement. So another positive development in how we are kind of jointly working through our – the issues of mutual concern.

Obviously, as it always does, a political resolution and reconciliation also came up. And on this point, Ambassador Grossman noted that he had just finished convening the eighth meeting of the core group at his level between Afghanistan and Pakistan and the U.S., which in part had follow-up reports from several of the working groups that they tested out their last meeting. One of these was a meeting of the safe passage working group, which was first hosted in Islamabad just two weeks ago, and looks at the possibility to facilitate movements of Taliban for those who wish at some point down the road to join any sort of reconciliation discussion.

So at this point it's working through the theoretical and legal frameworks and seeing where we can continue to – how we can continue to best facilitate any process down the road.

And then I think significantly, because President Karzai talked about the broader political, strategic, and economic issues at play in any sort of longer-term stability for his country, I wanted to make sure that this wasn't seen as a bilateral meeting in some sort of isolation. There's actually a number of meetings happening in the course of this week that build on the very firm foundation that we have set over the course of the past year. And many of you will be familiar with the kind of series of major ministerial meetings, summits, and others that we've held.

One last Thanksgiving was the Istanbul Conference, which provided a regional framework for including very specific economic and political confidence-building mechanisms. And it was at the beginning of a process that was followed up in Kabul this past summer, and right now in fact, Ambassador Grossman is at a meeting of senior officials to continue with that Istanbul process and assess where we are on some of those confidence-building mechanisms.

Similarly, as you know, we laid the foundation in Chicago for contributions to the Afghan national security forces, and then in Tokyo, we did the complementary piece on the economic and civilian assistance side with commitments of \$4 billion a year for four years. So into this transformation decade showing that the international community will continue to stand by Afghanistan. And there was a meeting tomorrow, which will continue to look at the mutual accountability framework, commitments that Afghanistan made, as well as where the international community is.

And President Karzai asked about the possibility of continuing to attract economic investment; there was recently an investment conference in Delhi with over 400 companies there, and in fact, just this morning Deputy Secretary Nides kicked off his day with a meeting of about a dozen American companies who are already investing or are thinking of investing in Afghanistan.

So this is all part of a much broader framework where, as the Secretary noted in the bilateral, there's been a very steady, positive growth of this state in Afghanistan over the course of certainly the last decade, but even now just the past few years. And our goal now is really to continue to build on that, how to consolidate those gains, and ensure that we build on those successes.

On Pakistan, Secretary met with President Zardari this morning. But it follows on a series of high-level meetings that we've had over the course of the last few months, which have really resulted in part by -- from the success of reopening the Ground Lines of Communication at the beginning of the summer, and it really paved the way for a kind of reenergized dialogue at senior levels.

So Secretary Clinton last met with Foreign Minister Khar in Tokyo when they were at the Tokyo conference in early July, and had another --

**QUESTION:** Wait. Didn't they meet on Friday?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** Last -- before this past meeting. Sorry, I was just getting to the point where Foreign Minister Khar then came.

After Ambassador Grossman's visit to Islamabad in Kabul last weekend, then Foreign Minister Khar spent most of last week in Washington. She had a series of, I think, very constructive and very honest meetings with key senators and House members. She did a range of civil society and think tank meetings, including the Council on Foreign Relations. And then she had about a two hour bilateral meeting with Secretary Clinton on Friday.

And that really covered the waterfront in terms of our issues and many of those were addressed again today with President Zardari. Again, we started off, given the primacy in all of our minds on security of personnel --

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** Are you on Zardari or Khar now?  
You're on Zardari.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** I'm on Zardari, although I will let you know on the Khar piece of it, which was -- because it was a lot longer, was -- gone into more of the specific issues as well.

The meeting today with President Zardari started again on the recent violence caused by the video. We have had extremely good support from Pakistani security sources in protecting our posts and our personnel, and we spent quite a bit of time talking about the violence throughout the region. The Secretary was unequivocal in stating that those who provoke violence cannot be tolerated, and it undermines the sovereignty of states, and we all must stand against violence. And there was complete concurrence by Pakistani leadership, not only by President Zardari who was there, but by senior members of his government and senior leaders of coalition parties who joined them, that there was zero tolerance for both violence and extremism. So on this issue, they were very united.

The Pakistanis have said several times that they appreciated very much both the President and the Secretary's statements about the video and the statements from our senior officials about its offensiveness and how it's been reprehensible, but that it is no justification for violence. And the first part of our meeting was dedicated to that.

In a kind of further, smaller-group session between President Zardari and Secretary Clinton, they talked about continued counterterrorism cooperation, including our continuing efforts to squeeze the Haqqani Network. And as you all know, we recently designated the Haqqani Network as a foreign terrorist organization. There was talk about religious freedoms. There was continued discussion, as there was with President Karzai on Afghanistan, on reconciliation. And again, we spoke about some of the things I just mentioned: the core group, the Safe Passage Working Group. And of note is the last core group before today's, which was in Tokyo, held at the ministerial level, which, for the first time, all three countries jointly called on Taliban to join the peace process. And building on that statement as well, notably Prime Minister Ashraf made his first foreign trip as Prime Minister to Kabul, and we will continue to look for ways that we cooperate on this issue.

And then lastly, also mirroring the Afghan conversation, was talk of our economic relationship and the relationship between the Pakistani people and the American people. Of note right now is the launch by the Secretary Clinton of the U.S.-Pakistan Women's Council as part of her event at 4 o'clock, which is meant to build opportunities for Pakistani women and both U.S. and Pakistani businesses. There was discussion of some of the private sector investment vehicles that we've tried to design to encourage further investment, including something which we just announced, the PPII, the Pakistan Private Investment Initiative; ongoing civilian assistance that we're giving to Pakistan, including a recent commitment to help repave some key roads leading to Afghanistan which are particularly used in the movement of supplies to Afghanistan; and the very welcome growing trade relationship between Pakistan and India even as noted in the recent visit of the Commerce – the recent discussion of the Commerce Secretary's administrators.

And from all this we are continuing to try to focus and hone and build on our bilateral relationship. Many of you remember the working groups that we established a little while ago. We have committed to three or four of the most significant ones meeting before the end of the year.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** The counterterrorism working group?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** The first – they're all working groups. The very first one that I think will meet is the one on counterterrorism and law enforcement, which will address counter IEDs, which came up as well today and on Friday. We'll also look at – to ones on the economy and market access issues, and we hope to also sign a bilateral investment treaty by the end of the year, as well as issues on the defense consultative group and potentially a nonproliferation group.

So there's a lot that we're re-energizing at this point. I don't think anyone wants to set expectations too high or too broad. But I think the general trajectory is certainly one that we've worked very, very hard on, particularly Secretary Clinton and Foreign Minister Khar, and which we're all trying to further.



**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** Great. Let's go to questions. Just to underscore a point that [Senior Department Official Two] made, I think with regard to both Afghanistan and Pakistan, you have not only these meetings that happen at the level of Secretary, head of state, but you have a huge amount happening at the Marc Grossman level, at the delegation level, particularly as we get these various working groups and security and economic agenda items moved forward.

Go ahead.

**QUESTION:** Can I ask specifically about the meeting with Zardari and your discussion of the Haqqani Network? You said you spoke about your efforts to squeeze them. Since the FTO designation, and even previous to that, there haven't been any recent comments by Pakistani officials suggesting that they will take any further action against them. What was the message today?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** We've continued to speak very substantively over the course of at least the last year. And I remember when Secretary Clinton was there last fall, she gave several specific examples of what squeezing the Haqqani Network would look like, and we continue to talk about ways we could pursue that together. And many of these working groups will provide some opportunities to continue to build on that, so --

**QUESTION:** But the President didn't say anything today about Pakistan taking any action at all to step up --

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** I think we're not going to characterize President Zardari's side of the conversation. We'll let him do that. But her remarks, obviously, were very much in keeping with where she's been. Let's use these working groups to really dig in --

**QUESTION:** She pressed him. He -- you're not saying what he said?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** We're not going to characterize his views.

**QUESTION:** You -- did the -- did she raise this Railway Minister offering a \$100,000 bounty for the producer of the film, and did she say that that's out of line and you guys should get rid of him?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** The Pakistanis actually raised that at the very outset of the conversation in the general discussion about not tolerating anyone who provokes violence. We've said very clearly and explicitly that the statements were inflammatory and a completely unacceptable threat, and we were very pleased with the series of statements that have come back from the Pakistanis. Both the Prime Minister's spokesman and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have both very publically disassociated the Pakistani Government from those statements.

And as part of the delegation today was the leader of the party, the ANP, which the Railway Minister is part of, who also very explicitly disassociated his party from those statements and said they were absolutely the individual views of a single person, and the party would meet soon to decide what to do with that minister.

**QUESTION:** In terms of -- well, the party would. But what about (inaudible)? Wouldn't firing the guy be --

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** Well, the governments did issue their statement --

**QUESTION:** Did they say no tolerance?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** Well, no --

**QUESTION:** I know, but I mean that's -- no tolerance would be -- I mean, this guy basically called for someone to be murdered.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** And -- right. And the Prime Minister and the MFA -- and I think you'll see continued statements on this -- were unequivocal.

**QUESTION:** (Inaudible) still have some (inaudible).

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** Right, but you have to also look at the --

**QUESTION:** Well (inaudible) was no tolerance (inaudible)?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** But you also have to look at it in the context of their coalition government. And so they may not --

**QUESTION:** Why?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** They have said --

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** Matt, I think the expectation, based on the conversation that we had, was that the party will make its decisions and that will have an impact on the larger question of how this is dealt with.

**QUESTION:** Okay. So you're --

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** Okay.

**QUESTION:** You're comfortable characterizing what you -- what they said, but not what Zardari said about the Haqqanis?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** I think we've given you what we can on this. Anybody else?

**QUESTION:** Well, can I follow on that? Because I'm, like, not quite sure what all this means. So did the Secretary -- you said that they brought it up.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** Mm-hmm.

**QUESTION:** Did -- first of all, was it President Zardari that brought it up? And did the Secretary actually ask him to do anything to the Railway Minister or make some statement in his own name disavowing it? And what is your expectation of the Pakistani Government writ large in its responsibility here to follow up on that?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** The President raised it at the outset of the meeting, as we had the more -- the broader conversation about violence and recent protests and the aftermath of it. It was part of the broader discussion when they talked about, as I said, that anyone that provokes violence cannot be tolerated, and that was echoed on by both delegations. And we are in further conversations, including with several of the ministers there and leaders of the various parties. They not only all completely disassociate themselves from it, but said that it was a process, an internal process that would continue to play out and that they were addressing. And we were comfortable with that response.

**QUESTION:** So that -- but that's your -- that's a global response to that, which is one of the things I asked you. But specifically on Zardari, did he say he would disavow it when she asked him?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** It started with this whole conversation in which President Zardari drew her attention to the government's statements disavowing the comments. So it started on the affirmative with him. And then there were several people in the delegation who spoke to it, including the party leader --

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** Right.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** And as [Senior State Department Official Two] has said, the understanding was that this would now be handled internally, and we'll see how it goes. Okay?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** But there was certainly -- and again, I don't want to speak for them either, and I think that they will continue to speak to this in the coming days, but they were very clear that they felt that they had taken among the strongest actions possible thus far in terms of repudiating and disassociating the parties and the

government from these statements, and that the rest, in terms of whatever may happen on his job, was a matter for their internal domestic processes to take care of.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** Let's go over here. Steve.

**QUESTION:** I want to go to Libya.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** Yep.

**QUESTION:** If anyone wants --

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** Well, shall we finish on Pakistan first? Yeah.

**QUESTION:** On the video itself that -- their spokesman yesterday said that they intend to call for international legislation against such incidents, so did they actually raise something like that in the meeting?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** That was not discussed in any part of the meeting. I am not aware that it was discussed in any part of the meeting. I know that there have been some suggestions about this, and we'll have to see how it plays out over the course of this week. But we also talked about our freedoms and the sanctity with which we hold them as well.

**QUESTION:** Okay. And with regards to Afghanistan and the reconciliation effort, Afghanistan and Pakistan recently have been trading allegations of cross-border insurgency. Was that discussed? And are -- or did you raise anything that you're happy with the cooperation that you are receiving in terms of border cooperation mechanism from Pakistan?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** It was part of the broader discussion on their bilateral relationship between Afghanistan and Pakistan, and I think we are all working towards continuing the positive trajectory that that is on as well. And certainly, Pakistan has been more engaged on the reconciliation side, including posting this Safe Passage Working Group just recently and Prime Minister Ashraf's visit to Kabul recently. And we'll continue to build on that, and I think there's a recognition of that on the Afghan side as well.

**QUESTION:** And just lastly, you -- earlier you said that in the meeting with the Foreign Minister Khar, there were some specifics that were discussed. So if you could just elaborate on that.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** There's a whole range of issues. She had spent her -- as I mentioned, she had at least three separate meetings with a series of Hill members, and they had raised a number of issues with her, and she discussed some of those. She discussed some of the ongoing civilian assistance and economic initiatives, including energy needs and some of the things that we'll discuss in the working groups, and then the broader

regional issues as well. So it was just – there was a lot covered over the course of that two hours. We didn't linger on any particular topic, and so those are what she discussed.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** Paul.

**QUESTION:** Did President Zardari or any other Pakistani official urge the U.S. to do anything more to prevent incidents like this film or taking action against the people who created it?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** Beyond the broad frame that I just told you about, condemning all those who provoke violence, there was not any specific action requested.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** Andy.

**QUESTION:** Did drone strikes come up from either side, either in – with the President Zardari meeting or in the Khar meeting?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** As you know, we don't talk about such a thing.

Margaret.

**QUESTION:** Was there conversation in either of the meetings about the impact of the Haqqani designation on reconciliation efforts?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** We've actually been quite pleased with the response in both countries on the designation, and we'll continue to build on it.

**QUESTION:** So it was discussed?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** It was –

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** I think that it's fair to say that it had been discussed before the designation was made, that they could expect this, and that it was something that we felt we needed to do in order to be able to go after the sources of funding, et cetera, for the Haqqani Network. So by the time it actually happened, I think it's fair to say, [Senior State Department Official Two], that it wasn't a surprise.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** Absolutely. As I briefed immediately after the designation, this was something that we wanted to keep the Pakistani Government in very close touch about. And so we had raised it with a variety of senior civilian, military, intelligence leadership and worked with them through this. So by the time of these meetings of the past few days, it hasn't been an issue.

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**QUESTION:** Well, isn't the reason that they're happy with -- or you were happy with their response because -- I'm sorry. Let me formulate this again. The Pakistanis are under the assumption that they have zero added obligations as a result of this FTO designation. Have you told them anything to suggest otherwise?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** I think you'd have to get the Pakistani response on what their obligations are.

**QUESTION:** I do have -- yeah. I mean, in fact, they've said that. I mean, the Foreign Minister said that last week, that she doesn't -- they're -- you told them ahead of time that's done, it was done for U.S. reasons, and boom, so what for them.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** But I mean, I would also look to the press release that the Embassy issued here noting that they were foreign fighters, going squarely into the parliamentary recommendations on the expulsion of foreign fighters and that Pakistani soil should not be used to launch attacks on others. So I think that the response thus far has actually been very constructive.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** Anything else on Afghanistan, Pakistan?

Please.

**QUESTION:** Yeah. On Pakistan, can you just clarify --

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** Can you tell us who you are?

**QUESTION:** Josh Gerstein with Politico. You said there was a general discussion of not tolerating anyone who provoked violence. Were you intending to encompass in that both the Railway Minister's comments and the original act of posting this video? And was the theme of this discussion that both kinds of acts should be considered in parallel and similar sanctions should apply to both kinds of acts?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** I think it was focused much more on the Pakistani side of that at that point in the conversation, although it was part of a broader discussion on the obligations of government leaders to speak out about this writ large. Is that accurate?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** That's about right. Yeah.

Please.

**QUESTION:** Was there any discussion about Pakistani Prime Minister getting onto the national TV (inaudible) and declaring the holiday to (inaudible)? Was there any discussion about that (inaudible)?

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**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** There wasn't in this set of meetings. I think we – I think I said at the time that we weren't going to get into their internal decisions about holidays, but we wanted to see any protests that occurred be maximally peaceful. I think we have also said, including in the context of this meeting, that we worked very well with the Pakistanis to protect all of our diplomatic missions, and we were very appreciative of the seriousness with which they took security, notwithstanding the fact that there was some violence and some loss of life, obviously.

**QUESTION:** The other one is about trilateral talks which are going to be held here between UK, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. Are you supporting of that talks? And what kind of results you will expect out of those trilateral talks?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** Absolutely. We're completely supportive of any number of other talks that engage the Afghans and Pakistanis. I couldn't begin to tell you what the expectation is out of them, but as Ambassador Grossman has said many times, the goal in the reconciliation effort is to get Afghans speaking with other Afghans about the future of Afghanistan. And there are many ways and many channels to try to pursue that. And our avenues are one of them, and – but if others have other avenues, we certainly welcome those as well. And the most important piece of it is the Afghan ownership of this, and given that, then we're extremely supportive of this.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** Anne\*.

**QUESTION:** Was there any discussion of this being her last meeting with either them? Is it your expectation that it is, in fact, the last time she will see them?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** We didn't talk about any scheduling issues.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** Way, way too much work to do. There was – there were no goodbye hugs here. We've got a lot of work to do in the four months ahead.

**QUESTION:** Was there any discussion on the forthcoming elections in Pakistan?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** There was discussion in general that it's an electoral season in both countries. Obviously that's not a surprise.

Jo.

**QUESTION:** So is it your sense then that Pakistani-U.S. ties are now much more on an even keel and you're actually going to move upwards and forwards, or are they still just sort of stagnant and just moving along on a (inaudible) level?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** I would certainly say that they're moving upwards in a positive direction. I don't, again, want to overestimate and oversell what's occurred. I mean, we're -- I think we've been working at a very diligent, disciplined, workmen-like manner over the course of these last 18 months, which have been very difficult, and especially over the last several months; since we've had this opening opportunity again, given the ground lines of communication, to get this back on track.

And I think they're reinvigorated, but we're looking at very specific, discrete, incremental steps that we can show that by acting together jointly, we can pursue many of our shared interests. And that's what these targeted few working groups are seeking to do. That's what these continued high-level meetings, working-level meetings are continuing to do. And I'm very comfortable with the direction that this is headed. But we're not -- we want to be realistic and clear-eyed about all this.

**QUESTION:** Can I ask on Afghanistan, on the Bilateral Security Commission? I got lost a little bit on -- you had -- you spoke about the talks that are happening next week, which aren't the start of the formal negotiations but would lead -- would be talks to lead to the formal talks?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** I think that the Strategic Partnership Agreement laid out that the -- a bilateral security agreement should be pursued and that it would have -- the goal was to have it completed within one year of negotiations starting. And this is just --

**QUESTION:** This was from the start of the last --

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** This is from the -- no, no. The Strategic Partnership Agreement signed by President Obama when he went there earlier in the year --

**QUESTION:** Right.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** -- called for a bilateral security agreement, which would -- with the goal of that being completed one year after negotiations started. To start the bilateral security agreement, we first have to have some meetings with the Bilateral Security Commission. That commission is meeting for the first time next year, and we are each appointing lead negotiators. And that will start the process of leading to the first negotiation of the BSA. So it's a technical --

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** It's talks about talks. (Laughter.)

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** It's a technical point, but we're not starting the tolling of that year next week.

**QUESTION:** Okay.



**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** But it is a positive step that we are going down that road.

**QUESTION:** Because they're on track eventually.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** Yes.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** Just remember that – yeah. Just remember that our – we operate in the current security environment under a Status of Forces Agreement that takes you to the time when security is fully in the hands of the Afghans, at the end of 2014. So we need something that will replace that as our sort of permanent security arrangement, if that's fair to say, [Senior State Department Official Two].

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** Yes.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** And this has to be negotiated, and it has to be negotiated before the end of 2014. And there was – and to try to do it within 12 months from the start of it. So this is preparatory to all of that.

**QUESTION:** Okay.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** If that makes sense. Okay. Going back to Libya.

**QUESTION:** On Libya. The – you mentioned that in the meeting with the President that you discussed reining in militias, MANPADS, the chemical weapons side, and that you wanted to intensify support in all those areas. Other than the Marine FAST team that's gone in or the FBI, which is conducting the investigation, have you been able to resume any of the military or security cooperation since the attack?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** My understanding – and I don't have as many details as I should; I'll see if I can get you a few more. But my understanding is that some of these training programs that we have been doing for Libyans have continued through this period. We'd like to do even more. As you know, this has been – we've had an interim government and there were some questions about how many decisions they could take about how they were going to approach security.

But it's certainly clear in all the conversations that we've had in the last two weeks and in the way President Magariaf was postured today that there is an appreciation and a commitment to accelerating the work that they are doing internally on their security. And among other things, he spoke very eloquently about the fact that the Libyan people are demanding to have a better sense of security.

**QUESTION:** Just on a – I don't know if logistical is the right word, but are you able now to get more personnel back into at least the Embassy in Tripoli?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** I don't think that we've got difficulty posting people in Tripoli for these things. And generally, these training programs are done by – teams come in for a short period to do that work or we bring Libyans to the States or to Europe for training, so all of that is continuing.

**QUESTION:** But let me ask another way. If I recall, right after the attack, you withdrew all but a skeleton crew from –

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** Oh, I see what you're saying.

**QUESTION:** I mean, Benghazi entirely and from Tripoli there were just a few left. Have you now been able to send back a more robust if not complete mission?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** I don't think we're back to full staffing in Tripoli, but I don't have any sense that it has impacted negatively on our ability to provide security training to the extent that the Libyans are ready to have it.

**QUESTION:** [Senior State Department Official One], can I just follow up? I know the constraints that you're under discussing the U.S. probe into what's happening in Benghazi, but the Libyans have their own. Did the Secretary ask for – did President Magariaf volunteer where they are with their probe? I mean, he talked on the TV last week about 50 people being arrested. Did they discuss that at all?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** We are very focused in our work with them on this investigation, on the work that the FBI will do with them. So to the extent that the FBI leads, they're the investigative agency, it wasn't her place to get into the details.

**QUESTION:** Are there any Americans – American personnel in Benghazi now?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** No.

Please.

**QUESTION:** Just on the point that you raised, that the President had said that they see two threats – one is from extremists and they have their agenda, and two is from remnants of the Qadhafi regime – was there any indication that the two are working together or is there any concern that there could be an alliance between the two?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** I'll let the Libyans speak to how they might see those things, but he spoke in terms of these two streams that they are watching and working on.

Anything else? Okay, thanks guys. And thank you very much [Senior State Department Official Two].

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**From:** State Department Press Office [Press@state.gov]  
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**To:** State Department Press Office  
**Subject:** BACKGROUND BRIEFING. Senior State Department Officials on Secretary Clinton's Bilateral Meetings

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Office of the Spokesperson**

**For Immediate Release  
24, 2012  
2012/1505**

**September**

**BACKGROUND BRIEFING**

**Senior State Department Officials on Secretary Clinton's Bilateral Meetings**

**September 24, 2012  
Waldorf Astoria Hotel  
New York**

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** All right, everybody. Thank you for your patience. We are here to give you some background information on some of the Secretary's bilateral meetings today. I will give you a readout on her meeting with Libyan President of the Governing National Council Magariaf and then [Senior State Department Official Two], who is [title withheld], will give you a readout on her meetings with President Karzai and President Zardari and a little bit of a broader sense of where we are in our relationship with both Afghanistan and Pakistan. I am hereafter Senior State Department Official Number One, and [Senior State Department Official Two] is Senior State Department Official Number Two.

So, first of all, with President Magariaf, I think a number of you got a chance to see the very warm and heartfelt public statements that were made at the top of the meeting, starting with a recognition of the very difficult days for both the United States and Libya following the attack in Benghazi and the loss of Ambassador Stevens and our three other diplomats, and the absolutely firm commitment on both sides, on the American side and on the Libyan side, not, as the Secretary has said, to allow Libya's hopes and dreams to be hijacked by extremists or hijacked by a mob. In that context, the conversation obviously started on the subject of security. The President and the Secretary reviewed the work that the United States has been doing to try to support Libya's effort to rein in the militias, to deal with MANPADS and other excess weapons from the Qadhafi era, to ensure that chemical weapons are secured. The Secretary offered to intensify our support and help for the Libyan Government in all of those areas.

President Magariaf spoke of two fundamental threats to Libyan security: the first, the threat from extremists with their own agendas; the second, a threat from remnants of the Qadhafi era, and he said that security is their government's absolute highest priority. He also spoke about concerns about the borders and the importance of being able to work well with neighbors to secure borders so that they can't be – the porousness can't be abused either by Qadhafi era remnants or by extremists, and asked for the United States' help in their continued effort to build good cooperation with their neighbors in this regard.

They then went on and talked about the economic challenges of, as the Secretary put it, helping Libya to build a 21<sup>st</sup> century economy. The Secretary talked at some length about our desire to encourage increased U.S. investment in Libya along the lines that we've been also doing in Tunisia and in Egypt to bring U.S. business people to Libya again. President Magariaf spoke about wanting to diversify the Libyan economy so it's not just petrochemical dependent but to make it a truly 21<sup>st</sup> century economy, picking up on her phrase.

The Secretary also talked about the challenge of writing a permanent constitution that stands ahead of Libya and our hope and expectation that it'll have strong protections for the human rights of all, the highest rule of law standards and justice. She also raised Pan Am 103, as she does in all meetings with senior Libyans, and requested continued cooperation as we keep working on that issue together.

Why don't we go to you, [Senior State Department Official Two], on Afghanistan and Pakistan.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** Okay. Thanks, and sorry to keep everyone waiting. The bilateral with President Karzai actually went quite long, so I just returned from that. Let me give you just kind of broad overviews of both the bilateral meetings today and then try to put it in a slightly broader framework as well.

The meeting with President Karzai lasted, I guess, probably close to an hour. It started off with the discussion about the aftermath of the video incident and our appreciation to the Afghans for helping to keep violence from that incident down to a minimal amount, and President Karzai appreciated that.

It went through kind of an assessment of where we are broadly right now on the road through transition in 2014. Obviously, we just completed the drawdown of the surge troops, and we are continuing our commitments through 2014 and then into the transformation decade that follows.

Obviously, the issue of insider attacks came up, and we talked about the continuing need – although I would defer on this to my Defense Department colleagues on the military end – but the need to continue to work through these issues and the joint interests of Afghans and American citizens in building a strong and stable Afghan National Security Force which can help to – which will contribute to a stable political future for Afghanistan.

Part of that political stability is premised on the Strategic Partnership Agreement which we signed earlier in the year, and that was raised, including next steps from the SPA, as we call it. One of those is that it talked about the beginning of a bilateral security commission, which would start the process of negotiating a bilateral security agreement. And we've been working on the very beginning points of that discussion and that will start next week. And on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, we'll have our first meeting. It's still, for those of you who follow the weeds of this, we were given about a year from the time negotiations started – this is not the formal start of negotiations, but it's the beginning of the path to negotiations on the bilateral security agreement. So another positive development in how we are kind of jointly working through our – the issues of mutual concern.

Obviously, as it always does, a political resolution and reconciliation also came up. And on this point, Ambassador Grossman noted that he had just finished convening the eighth meeting of the core group at his level between Afghanistan and Pakistan and the U.S., which in part had follow-up reports from several of the working groups that they (inaudible) at their last meeting. One of these was a meeting of the Safe Passage Working Group, which was first hosted in Islamabad just two weeks ago, and looks at the possibility to facilitate movements of Taliban for those who wish at some point down the road to join any sort of reconciliation discussion.

So at this point it's working through the theoretical and legal frameworks and seeing where we can continue to – how we can continue to best facilitate any process down the road.

And then I think significantly, because President Karzai talked about the broader political, strategic, and economic issues at play in any sort of longer-term stability for his country, I wanted to make sure that this wasn't seen as a bilateral meeting in some sort of isolation. There's actually a number of meetings happening in the course of this week that build on the very firm foundation that we have set over the course of the past year. And many of you will be familiar with the kind of series of major ministerial meetings, summits, and others that we've held.

One last Thanksgiving was the Istanbul Conference, which provided a regional framework for including very specific economic and political confidence-building mechanisms. And it was at the beginning of a process that was followed up in Kabul this past summer, and right now in fact, Ambassador Grossman is at a meeting of senior officials to continue with that Istanbul process and assess where we are on some of those confidence-building mechanisms.

Similarly, as you know, we laid the foundation in Chicago for contributions to the Afghan national security forces, and then in Tokyo, we did the complementary piece on the economic and civilian assistance side with commitments of \$4 billion a year for four years. So into this transformation decade showing that the international community will continue to stand by Afghanistan. And there was a meeting tomorrow, which will continue to look at the mutual accountability framework, commitments that Afghanistan made, as well as where the international community is.

And President Karzai asked about the possibility of continuing to attract economic investment; there was recently an investment conference in Delhi with over 400 companies there, and in fact, just this morning Deputy Secretary Nides kicked off his day with a meeting of about a dozen American companies who are already investing or are thinking of investing in Afghanistan.

So this is all part of a much broader framework where, as the Secretary noted in the bilateral, there's been a very steady, positive growth of this state in Afghanistan over the course of certainly the last decade, but even now just the past few years. And our goal now is really to continue to build on that, how to consolidate those gains, and ensure that we build on those successes.

On Pakistan, Secretary met with President Zardari this morning. But it follows on a series of high-level meetings that we've had over the course of the last few months, which have really resulted in part by – from the success of reopening the Ground Lines of Communication at the beginning of the summer, and it really paved the way for a kind of reenergized dialogue at senior levels.

So Secretary Clinton last met with Foreign Minister Khar in Tokyo when they were at the Tokyo conference in early July, and had another --

**QUESTION:** Wait. Didn't they meet on Friday?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** Last – before this past meeting. Sorry, I was just getting to the point where Foreign Minister Khar then came.

After Ambassador Grossman's visit to Islamabad and Kabul last weekend, then Foreign Minister Khar spent most of last week in Washington. She had a series of, I think, very constructive and very honest meetings with key Senators and House members. She did a range of civil society and think tank meetings, including the Council on Foreign Relations. And then she had about a two hour bilateral meeting with Secretary Clinton on Friday.

And that really covered the waterfront in terms of our issues and many of those were addressed again today with President Zardari. Again, we started off, given the primacy in all of our minds on security of personnel --

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** Are you on Zardari or Khar now? You're on Zardari.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** I'm on Zardari, although I will let you know on the Khar piece of it, which was -- because it was a lot longer, was -- gone into more of the specific issues as well.

The meeting today with President Zardari started again on the recent violence caused by the video. We have had extremely good support from Pakistani security sources in protecting our posts and our personnel, and we spent quite a bit of time talking about the violence throughout the region. The Secretary was unequivocal in stating that those who provoke violence cannot be tolerated, and it undermines the sovereignty of states, and we all must stand against violence. And there was complete concurrence by Pakistani leadership, not only by President Zardari who was there, but by senior members of his government and senior leaders of coalition parties who joined them, that there was zero tolerance for both violence and extremism. So on this issue, they were very united.

The Pakistanis have said several times that they appreciated very much both the President and the Secretary's statements about the video and the statements from our senior officials about its offensiveness and how it's been reprehensible, but that it is no justification for violence. And the first part of our meeting was dedicated to that.

In a kind of further smaller-group session between President Zardari and Secretary Clinton, they talked about continued counterterrorism cooperation, including our continuing efforts to squeeze the Haqqani Network. And as you all know, we recently designated the Haqqani Network as a foreign terrorist organization. There was talk about religious freedoms. There was continued discussion, as there was with President Karzai on Afghanistan, on reconciliation. And again, we spoke about some of the things I just mentioned: the core group, the Safe Passage Working Group. And of note is the last core group before today's, which was in Tokyo, held at the ministerial level, which, for the first time, all three countries jointly called on Taliban to join the peace process. And building on that statement as well, notably Prime Minister Ashraf made his first foreign trip as Prime Minister to Kabul, and we will continue to look for ways that we cooperate on this issue.

And then lastly, also mirroring the Afghan conversation, was talk of our economic relationship and the relationship between the Pakistani people and the American people. Of note right now is the launch by Secretary Clinton of the U.S.-Pakistan Women's Council as part of her event at 4 o'clock, which is meant to build opportunities for Pakistani women and both U.S. and Pakistani businesses. There was discussion of some of the private sector investment vehicles that we've tried to design to encourage further investment, including something which we just announced, the PPII, the Pakistan Private Investment Initiative; ongoing civilian assistance that we're giving to Pakistan, including a recent commitment to help repave some key roads leading to Afghanistan which are particularly used in the movement of supplies to Afghanistan; and the very welcome growing trade relationship between Pakistan and India even as noted in the recent visit of the Commerce -- the recent discussion of the Commerce Secretary's (inaudible).

And from all this we are continuing to try to focus and hone and build on our bilateral relationship. Many of you remember the working groups that we established a little while ago. We have committed to three or four of the most significant ones meeting before the end of the year.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** The counterterrorism working group?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** The first -- they're all working groups. The very first one that I think will meet is the one on counterterrorism and law enforcement, which will address counter IEDs, which came up as well today and on Friday. We'll also look at -- to ones on the economy and market access

issues, and we hope to also sign a bilateral investment treaty by the end of the year, as well as issues on the defense consultative group and potentially a nonproliferation group.

So there's a lot that we're re-energizing at this point. I don't think anyone wants to set expectations too high or too broad. But I think the general trajectory is certainly one that we've worked very, very hard on, particularly Secretary Clinton and Foreign Minister Khar, and which we're all trying to further.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** Great. Let's go to questions. Just to underscore a point that [Senior Department Official Two] made, I think, with regard to both Afghanistan and Pakistan, you have not only these meetings that happen at the level of Secretary, head of state, but you have a huge amount happening at the Marc Grossman level, at the delegation level, particularly as we get these various working groups and security and economic agenda items moved forward.

Go ahead.

**QUESTION:** Can I ask specifically about the meeting with Zardari and your discussion of the Haqqani Network? You said you spoke about your efforts to squeeze them. Since the FTO designation, and even previous to that, there haven't been any recent comments by Pakistani officials suggesting that they will take any further action against them. What was the message today?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** We've continued to speak very substantively over the course of at least the last year. And I remember when Secretary Clinton was there last fall, she gave several specific examples of what squeezing the Haqqani Network would look like, and we continue to talk about ways we could pursue that together. And many of these working groups will provide some opportunities to continue to build on that, so --

**QUESTION:** But the President didn't say anything today about Pakistan taking any action at all to step up --

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** I think we're not going to characterize President Zardari's side of the conversation. We'll let him do that. But her remarks, obviously, were very much in keeping with where she's been. Let's use these working groups to really dig in --

**QUESTION:** She pressed him. He -- you're not saying what he said?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** We're not going to characterize his views.

**QUESTION:** You -- did the -- did she raise this Railway Minister offering a \$100,000 bounty for the producer of the film, and did she say that that's out of line and you guys should get rid of him?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** The Pakistanis actually raised that at the very outset of the conversation in the general discussion about not tolerating anyone who provokes violence. We've said very clearly and explicitly that the statements were inflammatory and a completely unacceptable threat, and we were very pleased with the series of statements that have come back from the Pakistanis. Both the Prime Minister's spokesman and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have both very publically disassociated the Pakistani Government from those statements.

And as part of the delegation today was the leader of the party, the ANP, which the Railway Minister is part of, who also very explicitly disassociated his party from those statements and said they were absolutely the individual views of a single person, and the party would meet soon to decide what to do with that minister.

**QUESTION:** In terms of -- well, the party would. But what about (inaudible)? Wouldn't firing the guy be --



**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** Well, the governments did issue their statement --

**QUESTION:** Did they say no tolerance? (Inaudible) I know, but I mean that's -- no tolerance would be -- I mean, this guy basically called for someone to be murdered.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** And the Prime Minister and the MFA -- and I think you'll see continued statements on this -- were unequivocal.

**QUESTION:** (Inaudible) still have some (inaudible).

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** Right, but you have to also look at the --

**QUESTION:** Well (inaudible) was no tolerance (inaudible)?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** But you also have to look at it in the context of their coalition government. And so they may not --

**QUESTION:** Why?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** They have said --

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** Matt, I think the expectation, based on the conversation that we had, was that the party will make its decisions and that will have an impact on the larger question of how this is dealt with.

**QUESTION:** Okay. So you're --

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** Okay.

**QUESTION:** You're comfortable characterizing what you -- what they said, but not what Zardari said about the Haqqanis?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** I think we've given you what we can on this. Anybody else?

**QUESTION:** Well, can I follow on that? Because I'm, like, not quite sure what all this means. So did the Secretary -- you said that they brought it up.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** Mm-hmm.

**QUESTION:** Did -- first of all, was it President Zardari that brought it up? And did the Secretary actually ask him to do anything to the Railway Minister or make some statement in his own name disavowing it? And what is your expectation of the Pakistani Government writ large in its responsibility here to follow up on that?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** The President raised it at the outset of the meeting, as we had the more -- the broader conversation about violence and recent protests and the aftermath of it. It was part of the broader discussion when they talked about, as I said, that anyone that provokes violence cannot be tolerated, and that was echoed on by both delegations. And we are in further conversations, including with several of the ministers there and leaders of the various parties. They not only all completely disassociated

themselves from it, but said that it was a process, an internal process that would continue to play out and that they were addressing. And we were comfortable with that response.

**QUESTION:** So that – but that’s your – that’s a global response to that, which is one of the things I asked you. But specifically on Zardari, did he say he would disavow it when she asked him?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** It started with this whole conversation in which President Zardari drew her attention to the government’s statements disavowing the comments. So it started on the affirmative with him. And then there were several people in the delegation who spoke to it, including the party leader --

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** Right.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** And as [Senior State Department Official Two] has said, the understanding was that this would now be handled internally, and we’ll see how it goes. Okay?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** But there was certainly – and again, I don’t want to speak for them either, and I think that they will continue to speak to this in the coming days, but they were very clear that they felt that they had taken among the strongest actions possible thus far in terms of repudiating and disassociating the parties and the government from these statements, and that the rest, in terms of whatever may happen on his job, was a matter for their internal domestic processes to take care of.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** Let’s go over here. Steve.

**QUESTION:** I want to go to Libya.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** Yep.

**QUESTION:** If anyone wants --

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** Well, shall we finish on Pakistan first? Yeah.

**QUESTION:** On the video itself that – their spokesman yesterday said that they intend to call for international legislation against such incidents, so did they actually raise something like that in the meeting?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** That was not discussed in any part of the meeting. I am not aware that it was discussed in any part of the meeting. I know that there have been some suggestions about this, and we’ll have to see how it plays out over the course of this week. But we also talked about our freedoms and the sanctity with which we hold them as well.

**QUESTION:** Okay. And with regards to Afghanistan and the reconciliation effort, Afghanistan and Pakistan recently have been trading allegations of cross-border insurgency. Was that discussed? And are – or did you raise anything that you’re happy with the cooperation that you are receiving in terms of border cooperation mechanism from Pakistan?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** It was part of the broader discussion on their bilateral relationship between Afghanistan and Pakistan, and I think we are all working towards continuing the positive trajectory that that is on as well. And certainly, Pakistan has been more engaged on the reconciliation side, including posting this Safe Passage Working Group just recently and Prime Minister Ashraf’s visit to Kabul recently. And we’ll continue to build on that, and I think there’s a recognition of that on the Afghan side as well.

**QUESTION:** And just lastly, you – earlier you said that in the meeting with the Foreign Minister Khar, there were some specifics that were discussed. So if you could just elaborate on that.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** There's a whole range of issues. She had spent her – as I mentioned, she had at least three separate meetings with a series of Hill members, and they had raised a number of issues with her, and she discussed some of those. She discussed some of the ongoing civilian assistance and economic initiatives, including energy needs and some of the things that we'll discuss in the working groups, and then the broader regional issues as well. So it was just – there was a lot covered over the course of that two hours. We didn't linger on any particular topic, and so those are what she discussed.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** Paul.

**QUESTION:** Did President Zardari or any other Pakistani official urge the U.S. to do anything more to prevent incidents like this film or taking action against the people who created it?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** Beyond the broad frame that I just told you about, condemning all those who provoke violence, there was not any specific action requested.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** Andy.

**QUESTION:** Did drone strikes come up from either side, either in – with the President Zardari meeting or in the Khar meeting?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** As you know, we don't talk about such a thing.

Margaret.

**QUESTION:** Was there conversation in either of the meetings about the impact of the Haqqani designation on reconciliation efforts?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** We've actually been quite pleased with the response in both countries on the designation, and we'll continue to build on it.

**QUESTION:** So it was discussed?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** It was –

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** I think that it's fair to say that it had been discussed before the designation was made, that they could expect this, and that it was something that we felt we needed to do in order to be able to go after the sources of funding, et cetera, for the Haqqani Network. So by the time it actually happened, I think it's fair to say, [Senior State Department Official Two], that it wasn't a surprise.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** Absolutely. As I briefed immediately after the designation, this was something that we wanted to keep the Pakistani Government in very close touch about. And so we had raised it with a variety of senior civilian, military, intelligence leadership and worked with them through this. So by the time of these meetings of the past few days, it hasn't been an issue.

**QUESTION:** Well, isn't the reason that they're happy with – or you were happy with their response because – I'm sorry. Let me formulate this again. The Pakistanis are under the assumption that they have zero added obligations as a result of this FTO designation. Have you told them anything to suggest otherwise?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** I think you'd have to get the Pakistani response on what their obligations are.

**QUESTION:** I do have – yeah. I mean, in fact, they've said that. I mean, the Foreign Minister said that last week, that she doesn't – they're – you told them ahead of time that's done, it was done for U.S. reasons, and boom, so what for them.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** But I mean, I would also look to the press release that the Embassy issued here noting that they were foreign fighters, going squarely into the parliamentary recommendations on the expulsion of foreign fighters and that Pakistani soil should not be used to launch attacks on others. So I think that the response thus far has actually been very constructive.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** Anything else on Afghanistan, Pakistan?

Please.

**QUESTION:** Yeah. On Pakistan, can you just clarify –

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** Can you tell us who you are?

**QUESTION:** Josh Gerstein with Politico. You said there was a general discussion of not tolerating anyone who provoked violence. Were you intending to encompass in that both the Railway Minister's comments and the original act of posting this video? And was the theme of this discussion that both kinds of acts should be considered in parallel and similar sanctions should apply to both kinds of acts?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** I think it was focused much more on the Pakistani side of that at that point in the conversation, although it was part of a broader discussion on the obligations of government leaders to speak out about this writ large. Is that accurate?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** That's about right. Yeah.

Please.

**QUESTION:** Was there any discussion about Pakistani Prime Minister getting onto the national TV one day before the (inaudible) and declaring the holiday to (inaudible)? Was there any discussion about that official action of the Prime Minister?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** There wasn't in this set of meetings. I think we – I think I said at the time that we weren't going to get into their internal decisions about holidays, but we wanted to see any protests that occurred be maximally peaceful. I think we have also said, including in the context of this meeting, that we worked very well with the Pakistanis to protect all of our diplomatic missions, and we were very appreciative of the seriousness with which they took security, notwithstanding the fact that there was some violence and some loss of life, obviously.

**QUESTION:** The other one is about trilateral talks which are going to be held here between UK, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. Are you supporting of that talks? And what kind of results you will expect out of those trilateral talks?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** Absolutely. We're completely supportive of any number of other talks that engage the Afghans and Pakistanis. I couldn't begin to tell you what the expectation

is out of them, but as Ambassador Grossman has said many times, the goal in the reconciliation effort is to get Afghans speaking with other Afghans about the future of Afghanistan. And there are many ways and many channels to try to pursue that. And our avenues are one of them, and – but if others have other avenues, we certainly welcome those as well. And the most important piece of it is the Afghan ownership of this, and given that, then we're extremely supportive of this.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** Anne.

**QUESTION:** Was there any discussion of this being her last meeting with either of them? Is it your expectation that it is, in fact, the last time she will see them?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** We didn't talk about any scheduling issues.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** Way, way too much work to do. There was – there were no goodbye hugs here. We've got a lot of work to do in the four months ahead.

**QUESTION:** Was there any discussion on the forthcoming elections in Pakistan?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** There was discussion in general that it's an electoral season in both countries. Obviously that's not a surprise.

Jo.

**QUESTION:** So is it your sense then that Pakistani-U.S. ties are now much more on an even keel and you're actually going to move upwards and forwards, or are they still just sort of stagnant and just moving along on a fairly level?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** I would certainly say that they're moving upwards and in a positive direction. I don't, again, want to overestimate and oversell what's occurred. I mean, we're – I think we've been working at a very diligent, disciplined, workmen-like manner over the course of these last 18 months, which have been very difficult, and especially over the last several months, since we've had this opening opportunity again, given the Ground Lines of Communication, to get this back on track.

And I think they're reinvigorated, but we're looking at very specific, discrete, incremental steps that we can show that by acting together jointly, we can pursue many of our shared interests. And that's what these targeted few working groups are seeking to do. That's what these continued high-level meetings, working-level meetings are continuing to do. And I'm very comfortable with the direction that this is headed. But we're not – we want to be realistic and clear-eyed about all this.

**QUESTION:** Can I ask on Afghanistan, on the Bilateral Security Commission? I got lost a little bit on – you had – you spoke about the talks that are happening next week, which aren't the start of the formal negotiations but would lead – would be talks to lead to the formal talks?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** I think that the Strategic Partnership Agreement laid out that the – a bilateral security agreement should be pursued and that it would have – the goal was to have it completed within one year of negotiations starting. And this is just --

**QUESTION:** This was from the start of the last --

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** This is from the – no, no. The Strategic Partnership Agreement signed by President Obama when he went there earlier in the year --

**QUESTION:** Right.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** -- called for a bilateral security agreement, which would -- with the goal of that being completed one year after negotiations started. To start the bilateral security agreement, we first have to have some meetings with the Bilateral Security Commission. That commission is meeting for the first time next year, and we are each appointing lead negotiators. And that will start the process of leading to the first negotiation of the BSA. So it's a technical --

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** It's talks about talks.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** It's a technical point, but we're not starting the tolling of that year next week.

**QUESTION:** Okay.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** But it is a positive step that we are going down that road.

**QUESTION:** Because they're on track essentially.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** Yes.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** Just remember that -- yeah. Just remember that our -- we operate in the current security environment under a Status of Forces Agreement that takes you to the time when security is fully in the hands of the Afghans, at the end of 2014. So we need something that will replace that as our sort of permanent security arrangement, if that's fair to say, [Senior State Department Official Two].

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TWO:** Yes.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** And this has to be negotiated, and it has to be negotiated before the end of 2014. And there was -- and to try to do it within 12 months from the start of it. So this is preparatory to all of that.

**QUESTION:** Okay.

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** If that makes sense. Okay. Going back to Libya.

**QUESTION:** On Libya. The -- you mentioned that in the meeting with the President that you discussed reining in militias, MANPADS, the chemical weapons side, and that you wanted to intensify support in all those areas. Other than the Marine FAST team that's gone in or the FBI, which is conducting the investigation, have you been able to resume any of the military or security cooperation since the attack?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** My understanding -- and I don't have as many details as I should; I'll see if I can get you a few more. But my understanding is that some of these training programs that we have been doing for Libyans have continued through this period. We'd like to do even more. As you know, this has been -- we've had an interim government and there were some questions about how many decisions they could take about how they were going to approach security.

But it's certainly clear in all the conversations that we've had in the last two weeks and in the way President Magariaf was postured today that there is an appreciation and a commitment to accelerating the work that they

are doing internally on their security. And among other things, he spoke very eloquently about the fact that the Libyan people are demanding to have a better sense of security.

**QUESTION:** Just on a – I don't know if logistical is the right word, but are you able now to get more personnel back into at least the Embassy in Tripoli?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** I don't think that we've got difficulty posting people in Tripoli for these things. And generally, these training programs are done by – teams come in for a short period to do that work or we bring Libyans to the States or to Europe for training, so all of that is continuing.

**QUESTION:** But let me ask another way. If I recall, right after the attack, you withdrew all but a skeleton crew from –

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** Oh, I see what you're saying.

**QUESTION:** I mean, Benghazi entirely and from Tripoli there were just a few left. Have you now been able to send back a more robust if not complete mission?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** I don't think we're back to full staffing in Tripoli, but I don't have any sense that it has impacted negatively on our ability to provide security training to the extent that the Libyans are ready to have it.

**QUESTION:** [Senior State Department Official One], can I just follow up? I know the constraints that you're under discussing the U.S. probe into what's happening in Benghazi, but the Libyans have their own. Did the Secretary ask for – did President Magariaf volunteer where they are with their probe? I mean, he talked on the TV last week about 50 people being arrested. Did they discuss that at all?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** We are very focused in our work with them on this investigation, on the work that the FBI will do with them. So to the extent that the FBI leads, they're the investigative agency, it wasn't her place to get into the details.

**QUESTION:** Are there any Americans – American personnel in Benghazi now?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** No.

Please.

**QUESTION:** Just on the point that you raised, that the President had said that they see two threats – one is from extremists and they have their agenda, and two is from remnants of the Qadhafi regime – was there any indication that the two are working together or is there any concern that there could be an alliance between the two?

**SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE:** I'll let the Libyans speak to how they might see those things, but he spoke in terms of these two streams that they are watching and working on.

Anything else? Okay, thanks guys. And thank you very much [Senior State Department Official Two].

###

**From:** [REDACTED] (PACE) [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 4 16 PM  
**To:** PA PRS Issues  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] (PACE); [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] PA FO Core; PA OBS\_BS&P; PA RPT Group [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] (PA); Toner, Mark C  
**Subject:** DRAFT TRANSCRIPT: S camera spray with Libyan President

b6  
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The draft transcript of the Secretary's camera spray with the Libyan President is ready for editing, saved in her press conferences and camera sprays folder.

Editor, the audio to use for proofing is called 09242012 Libya Camera Spray and is saved in the September audio files folder. Please confirm receipt. Thanks.

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE**  
Office of the Spokesperson

For Immediate Release  
2012/xxx

September 24, 2012

**REMARKS**

**Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton  
And Libyan President Mohamed Magariaf  
Before Their Meeting**

**September 24, 2012  
Waldorf-Astoria  
New York, New York**

**UNEDITED/DRAFT**

**SECRETARY CLINTON:** Well, it's wonderful to welcome the President of Libya and his distinguished delegation here to New York.

As we all know, the United States lost a great ambassador and the Libyan people lost a true friend when Chris Stevens and three other Americans were killed in the terrorist assault on our consulate in Benghazi.

Through everything, the President and the Libyan Government have been staunch partners to the United States. I want to thank them in person, as we already have through communications and through your Ambassador, for the important efforts that they are taking to help find and bring to justice all those responsible for the attacks. I'd also like to thank the Libyan people for the outpouring of support they have shown to not only Ambassador Stevens, but on behalf of the United States.

This summer, the Libyan people had the chance to choose their own leaders, and we have a President who has been freely chosen by the Libyan people. Courage has been the defining characteristic of the Libyan people over these last two years – courage to rise up and overthrow a dictator; courage to choose the hard path of democracy; courage to stand against violence and division in their country and the world. And Mr. President, that kind of courage deserves our support.



The United States was proud to stand with you and the Libyan people as you fought for your country last year. And we will continue to stand with you as you now write Libya's new future as a democracy that will give all of your people a chance to have a better future.

Thank you.

**PRESIDENT MAGARIAF:** (Via interpreter.) Madam Secretary, at the outset, I would like to thank you, Secretary of State Clinton, for these kind words that you have expressed towards our Libyan people, towards the Libyan revolution, and toward the General National Congress of Libya that is today the legitimate and – the legitimacy and the legitimate authority in Libya.

Madam Secretary, I wouldn't wish to speak for long, but however, before we continue, I would like to express – again reiterate the expression of my sincerest condolences, the condolences of the Libyan National Congress, the Libyan Government, the Libyan people, to you, to President Obama, and to the American people and to the families of the victims that fell during this painful, tragic tragedy. And they were the victims Ambassador Chris Stevens and his three comrades.

Madam Secretary, that was a very painful, huge tragedy, not only to the American people and the families of the victims but also for the Libyan people. The Libyan people lost a friend, lost someone who was very supportive of them, someone who was very supportive of their revolution, and someone who was always there for them.

Madam Secretary, undoubtedly, the understanding that was expressed by President Obama, by you as Secretary of State, towards these tragic events and your positive expression to continue to support Libya has led to mitigating the repercussions of this regrettable tragedy and incident on our close relationship.

Madam Secretary, their support, of course, mitigated the repercussions and the consequences, however, on the other hand, that support also furthered the responsibility on our shoulders towards taking responsibility – a great responsibility – for this tragedy and also let us look at the necessity to expedite the investigation in the incident and to pursue – to bring to justice those perpetrators. Of course, we are – we express our great readiness to cooperate with the U.S. Government in order to cooperate in the investigation and bring those perpetrators to justice.

Madam Secretary, I also will seize this opportunity to reaffirm that what happened on the 11th of September towards these U.S. citizens does not express in any way the conscience of the Libyan people, their aspirations, their hopes, or their sentiments towards the American people.

Madam Secretary, and I am confident that the protest that happened last Friday in Benghazi and the other protests that took place across the Libyan cities in protest to what happened are a very clear message to how we feel toward the United States. These protests embodied the conscience of the Libyan people. The Libyan people have spoken through these protests last Friday and expressed their true sentiments, how they feel towards the U.S. Administration and American people. You have mentioned the courage of the Libyan people, and we truly appreciate those words.

Madam Secretary, there is no doubt that the Libyan people have shown to the world and perhaps to across the world with their true courage and their love for their country and for the love for the freedom.

Madam Secretary, their courage would not have been possible for them also to win over a tyrant if it were not for the unlimited U.S. support, the political and military support of the United States, and the United States support in – at all levels that was given to the Libyan revolution that the U.S. Administration gave to the Libyan revolution as well as your support, President Obama's support, the American people's support, and the support of the entire international community to this revolution.

This not only makes it our duty to thank you, thank the United States as well as the international community for that support, but that also makes it our duty to rise up to the level of the confidence and the trust that you, the United States, and the international community have put in us.

Madam Secretary, of course, despite all the challenges, the perils, the difficulties, and the – all the obstacles that we faced, the Libyan people were able – humbly as well as with pride – to show to the world the degree of their keenness to safeguard this revolution and to make it a success in order to bring about the goals – the noble and great goals of this revolution, mainly to establish a constitutional, democratic, civil state that would be based on pluralism and a peaceful transfer of authority.

Undoubtedly, these elections that happened over the past summer and brought about the General National Congress in Libya and also demonstrated the transparent elections that brought to power a new prime minister, all these events show and send a message of the new road that Libya is determined to take.

I am confident that the General National Congress and this new government – the new government are keen on undertaking their duties and fulfilling their responsibilities with integrity and sincerity as well as responsibility towards the world.

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**From:** [REDACTED] b6  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 5:17 PM b7C  
**To:** [REDACTED] (PACE); [REDACTED] (PACE); PA PRS Issues  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] (PACE); [REDACTED] (PA); Toner, Mark C; [REDACTED] PA FO Core; PA OBS BS&P; PA RPT Group  
**Subject:** Re: DRAFT TRANSCRIPT: S camera spray with Libyan President

[REDACTED]  
Yes please release.

**From:** [REDACTED] (PACE)  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 04:49 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] (PACE); PA PRS Issues  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] (PACE); [REDACTED] PA FO b6  
Core; PA OBS BS&P; PA RPT Group; [REDACTED] (PA); Toner, Mark C b7C  
**Subject:** RE: DRAFT TRANSCRIPT: S camera spray with Libyan President

Edited version below; please let me know if this is ok to release. Thank you. [REDACTED]

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Office of the Spokesperson**

**For Immediate Release  
September 24, 2012  
2012/09/24**

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**From:** State Department Press Office [Press@state.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 5:23 PM  
**To:** State Department Press Office  
**Subject:** REMARKS: Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton And Libyan President Mohamed Magariaf Before Their Meeting

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**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Office of the Spokesperson**

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**For Immediate Release  
September 24, 2012  
2012/1502**

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# # #



From: Joanna BIDDLE [redacted]  
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2012 11:50 AM  
To: [redacted]  
Cc: Nicolas REVISE  
Subject: RE: CNN's Explanation(s)

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

OK

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted]  
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2012 11:49 AM  
To: Joanna BIDDLE  
Cc: Nicolas REVISE  
Subject: Re: CNN's Explanation(s)

b6  
b7C

Ok, just please make sure to clearly note that they are from yesterday.

And if helpful, feel free to say in your voice that [redacted] said he is waiting to comment any further until seeing what CNN does in light of the weekend's exchange. b6  
b7C

----- Original Message -----

From: Joanna BIDDLE [mailto:[redacted]]  
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2012 11:42 AM  
To: [redacted]  
Cc: Nicolas REVISE [redacted]  
Subject: RE: CNN's Explanation(s)

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Ok thanks. As I said our editors in Paris have pushed to do a short story, so we used some of the comments you sent yesterday afternoon even though as you say it is "stale"

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted]  
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2012 11:41 AM  
To: Joanna BIDDLE  
Cc: Nicolas REVISE  
Subject: Re: CNN's Explanation(s)

b6  
b7C

I will check on your first question

OFF the record: on your second question, I am waiting to see what CNN does today before commenting further, so using what I wrote yesterday or the day before is stale. If they change their tune today, I will react to that.

----- Original Message -----

From: Joanna BIDDLE [mailto:[redacted]]  
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2012 11:21 AM  
To: [redacted]  
Cc: Nicolas REVISE [redacted]  
Subject: RE: CNN's Explanation(s)

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Hi [redacted]

Apologies if I wasn't clear. CNN say they found the journal in the ruins of the compound several days after the attack. I realize that all the American staff had been evacuated, but was there any liaison with Libyan security partners to check whether any documents had been left behind? I realize the compound was temporary too.

Further that, could you comment please on CNN's use of the diary? All shall we just use what you sent yesterday to everyone, thanks, Jo

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2012 11:14 AM  
To: Joanna BIDDLE  
Cc: Nicolas REVISE  
Subject: Re: CNN's Explanation(s)

b6  
b7C

Hi Joanna

Confused by your question - swept when exactly and by who? I think you know from covering us and the daily briefings that the compound was under assault, they had to fight their way out - while the structure was still fully ablaze - and then to the airport when all USG personnel were evacuated to Tripoli.

Aside from that, we've also made clear that the compound in Benghazi was temporary and therefore didn't have any permanent classified processing.

----- Original Message -----

From: Joanna BIDDLE [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2012 09:05 AM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: Nicolas REVISE [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: CNN's Explanation(s)

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Good morning [REDACTED]

Set up at CGI, for the Secretary's remarks this morning. I'm afraid our editors want us to write something on CNN's release of ambassador Stevens's diary, which so far we hadn't written about. Could you please let us have either your original statement, or a new one with a reaction to CNN's allegations about "shooting the messenger." Further to that there is an issue about how they were able to get hold of it diary, when surely the Benghazi mission should have been carefully swept in case any classified documents had survived the fire. What are your comments on that issue?

Thanks so much, Jo

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Sunday, September 23, 2012 4:00 PM  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: CNN's Explanation(s)

b6  
b7C

All -

Excuse the intrusion on your Sunday, but I've heard from more than half of you or the media outlets you represent asking for reaction to CNN's atrocious behavior in the handling of Ambassador Stevens's diary, as originally reported by The Wall Street Journal, and expanded on by The Washington Post just a little while ago.

I continue to hear from many of you still trying to comprehend why CNN did what they did, so I just want to bring everyone up to speed at once.

I also know that to many of you, this is not simply a 'story' as you knew or worked with Chris, and find this as distasteful as everyone here at State does.

I'm more than happy to send my existing statement. But I want to wait in case CNN issues another excuse of the day in order to address it. I'm struggling to keep up with them since they are clearly having a hard time settling on a single credible explanation that gets them off the hook for lying to the family. They keep changing their tune, issuing inadequate, confusing, and conflicting explanations, offering four in as many days, some on air, some by paper. Even as I type I'm hearing they're trying on a new one for size, peddling that the family didn't really understand what CNN said to them. Never mind that there were five people on the call that CNN is claiming four people misunderstood.

So once they finally get their latest story straight and stick to it, I'll follow up with you all. Not sure that will be anytime soon since it's clear they don't know how to explain, let alone justify their actions. And I'm certainly not going to hold my breath until someone is held accountable.

In the meantime, here is the Post story I mentioned above, you might find it helpful:

CNN vs. the State Department: A Long Story By Erik Wemple The Washington Post Posted at 02:37 PM ET, 09/23/2012

CNN's Anderson Cooper on Wednesday night brought his viewers some big news about the fatal Sept. 11 attacks against the U.S. consulate and nearby annex in Benghazi, Libya. All manner of details on the provenance and circumstances of the assaults that claimed the lives of U.S. Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens and three others have been unclear or in dispute. So the information that CNN divulged found an eager audience. Here's Cooper:

Now, you are looking at the scene just outside the consulate in Benghazi as a pro-American crowd tried to rush Ambassador Stevens, who was wounded, still alive, to the hospital. Tonight, [CNN] obtains exclusive information about the climate that led up to all of this.

A source familiar with Ambassador Stevens' thinking said in the months before his death, he talked about being worried about what he called the never-ending security threats, specifically in Benghazi. The source [is] telling us that the ambassador specifically mentioned the rise in Islamic extremism, the growing al-Qaeda presence in Libya, and said that he was on an al-Qaeda hit list.

Exclusive, foreign, terrorism-related, breaking news – that's so CNN. The Web ate the story for breakfast and lunch the next day. On Friday night, Cooper returned to the topic of Stevens, this time with more compelling stuff:

The information for [Wednesday's] report, like all of CNN's reporting, was carefully vetted. Some of that information was found in a personal journal of Ambassador Stevens in his handwriting. We came upon the journal through our reporting and notified the family.

At their request, we returned that journal to them. We reported what we found newsworthy in the ambassador's writings. Our reporting followed up on what we found newsworthy, as I said, in the ambassador's writings.

Those are six very heavy sentences. And there's an extensive story behind them, as the Wall Street Journal and the Huffington Post reported on Saturday. The family of the late ambassador had requested that CNN not issue any reports based on the journal – or even reference its existence – before the family consented. CNN agreed to abide by the family's wishes, according to Philippe Reines, a State Department spokesman who listened in on a conference call between a CNN executive and a representative of the Stevens family.

State and CNN have spent a good part of the weekend trading nasty words on the spat. The length of this State Department tract alone makes clear just how peeved its leadership is:

Given the truth of how this was handled, CNN patting themselves on the back is disgusting.

What they're not owning up to is reading and transcribing Chris's diary well before bothering to tell the family or anyone else that they took it from the site of the attack. Or that when they finally did tell them, they completely ignored the wishes of the family, and ultimately broke their pledge made to them only hours after they witnessed the return to the United States of Chris's remains.

Whose first instinct is to remove from a crime scene the diary of a man killed along with three other Americans serving our country, read it, transcribe it, email it around your newsroom for others to read, and only when their curiosity is fully satisfied thinks to call the family or notify the authorities?

When a junior person at CNN called, they didn't say, 'Hello, I know this is a terrible time, but I'm sure you want your son's diary, where do you want it sent?' They instead took the opportunity to ask the family if CNN could report on its contents. Contents known only to Chris Stevens, and those at CNN who had already invaded his privacy.

When the seniormost levels of CNN were finally reached, they needed to be convinced to do the right thing. But not before they took a second shot at convincing the family to let them report on the contents. A family member made it crystal clear directly to CNN that they wanted Chris's diary and would not make any other decisions until then. But that wasn't fast enough for CNN, so they helpfully offered to send the family the transcript they'd already made and passed around, to put a rush on it for their own purposes.

It was then made clear to them, for what must have been the fourth time in the same call, that they wanted to look at it privately, together as a family before making any decisions. Period. CNN finally heard their request enough times that they had to accept it, agreed to abide by the clear wishes of the Stevens family, and pledged not to use the diary or even allude to its existence until hearing back from the family.

But the Stevens family was never given that chance. I guess four days was as long as CNN could control themselves, so they just went ahead and used it. Entirely because they felt like it. Anderson Cooper didn't even bother to offer any other explanation as to why the network broke its promise to the family. And only did so after being contacted by a reporter asking about the diary and their convoluted sourcing.

How do they justify that? They have yet to even try to defend the indefensible. Not a proud episode in CNN's history. I'm sure there are many good people in the CNN newsroom equally appalled by this decision and wondering who above them authorized this course of action.

And CNN:

We think the public had a right to know what CNN had learned from multiple sources about the fears and warnings of a terror threat before the Benghazi attack which are now raising questions about why the State Department didn't do more to protect Ambassador Stevens and other U.S. personnel. Perhaps the real question here is why is the State Department now attacking the messenger.

In sum, an extraordinary disagreement between this country's foreign-policy shop and one of its more aggressive agents of foreign reportage. It all stems from the unique circumstances that unraveled on Sept. 11. The attacks on the consulate and annex were severe enough that the State Department evacuated all U.S. personnel from the compound, leaving, in effect, an unsecured crime scene.

A full three days after the attack, CNN senior international correspondent Arwa Damon found Stevens' journal at the site of the Benghazi consulate, according to Reines.

Reines found out about the journal not long after a "return of remains" ceremony for Ambassador Stevens and the other victims at Andrews Air Force Base on Friday, Sept. 14. He received a call from State's protocol office alerting him that someone from CNN had called the Stevens family with the news that they'd recovered the ambassador's journal. To CNN's request to report on its contents, the family member responded in the negative.

The Stevens family wanted State's help, so Reines got in touch with a Stevens family member who confirmed the story for him. Now Reines wanted to chat with CNN, so he e-mailed the woman - CNN staffer Meredith Edwards - who'd reportedly contacted the Stevens family. No reply. Next on the list was Mark Whitaker, a ranking CNN news executive. Reines asked Whitaker whether the story he'd heard was accurate. Whitaker confirmed the gist of things but wasn't forthcoming, recalls Reines: "He was clearly sheepish and defensive from the beginning," says Reines. "He said, 'We're talking to our lawyers.' And I said, 'Mark, if you're talking to your lawyers, then you know you're on shaky ground.'"

That call was merely a prelude to more calls. Later that Friday, Reines chatted with Richard Griffiths, a key CNN editorial official who confirmed possession of the Stevens diary and explained that the late ambassador had procured it in Stockholm and had started writing in it on his last holiday. Reines discussed getting Griffiths on the line with the Stevens family to hash out the affair. Griffiths then told Reines how he'd pitch the family: That the journal provided a beautiful window into Stevens's character and dedication to his work and that they'd like permission to go ahead and use it on air.

In a subsequent conference call with the family and State officials, CNN's Griffiths "regurgitated" the script, Reines says. The family member listened and said no. Reines: "The family member thoughtfully and clearly told Griffiths that this was Chris's personal property and that they believed it was their personal property now, that they wanted it back and that they would not make any other decisions about it" until they reviewed it. There wasn't an insistence that they'd never bless its use, nor an indication that they would - just a preference that they jointly take a look at the contents before making any decisions.

Griffiths asked if the family would be okay with CNN at least saying that it had recovered the journal on the site of the attacks and had returned it to the family. Family member: No.

After that rejection, Griffiths told the Stevens family member that CNN had transcribed the diary and could pass it along in e-mail format. The family member declined to share an e-mail address, so the parties agreed that Griffiths would send the text to Reines, who would then forward it on to the Stevens family. Reines fulfilled his middleman role and says he has never glimpsed at the contents of the e-mail; nor has any State Department official had access to it, he says.

One clear takeaway from the conference call, says Reines, is CNN's standing on the question of family deference. It was absolute, he says - Griffiths stated that the network would honor the wishes of the family not to mention the journal on air. "There was no other caveat or asterisk," says Reines, whose account was corroborated by two other State Department sources who overheard the conference call.

The next step was arranging for Damon to pass the journal along to an Italian diplomat so that it could be delivered back to the family. "The first order of business was getting this out of CNN's hands, given their behavior and their insensitive interactions with the family," says Reines.

Things were quiet until the following week, when Cooper began what Reines called "breathless" coverage alleging that Stevens believed he was on an al-Qaeda hit list. That information, in Cooper's wording, was based on an anonymous source. "They constructed something that allowed them to satisfy their minimal journalistic standards to break their pledge to the family," says Reines.

The network differs, saying that it had "multiple sources" for that information. "Out of respect to the family, we have not quoted from or shown the journal," says a CNN statement.

CNN never apprised anyone in the Stevens family of its plans to mention the journal on air, says Reines, though a CNN source insists that the network tried many times to reach the family after the Sept. 14 conference call, "to no avail." In its statement, CNN gives this explanation for discussing the item on air:

The reason CNN ultimately reported Friday on the existence of the journal was because leaks to media organizations incorrectly suggested CNN had not quickly returned the journal, which we did.

Odd bit of reasoning: Did CNN run some material because someone had apparently peddled false rumors to other news outlets? The Wall Street Journal, says Reines, was poking around at this story, asking CNN if it was true that it had come into possession of the Stevens journal. (The Wall Street Journal declined to comment on the matter).

"[CNN's] explanation for breaking their promise to the ambassador's family is that someone was leaking on them, rather than any kind of responsibility to their own standards," says Reines. "That is hardly a profile in courage." Aside from this non-consideration, says Reines, CNN's editorial formulations didn't change from the moment it spoke with the family to the time that it apprised its viewers of the journal. "The only thing that changed was their integrity," says Reines.

Any fair accounting of this dispute must start with an endorsement of CNN's industriousness. That a reporter from the network got to the scene and fetched an item that no one else had found speaks well of CNN and its commitment to international reporting. If CNN hadn't been on the ground, after all, the Stevens family may never have recovered the journal. That a news organization, and not a U.S. government entity, scored the journal speaks ill of the latter.

From there, the story gets more complicated. Journals enjoy an exalted cone of privacy among civilized people: Hands off.

That cone shatters, of course, when we're talking about the writings of an ambassador who's been killed in a high-profile attack in a volatile foreign country. Reflections and information in the journal may be of immediate public interest, an imperative that steamrolls any considerations about privacy. Not only was CNN right to read and copy the journal, but also it was obligated by its newsgathering mission to do so.

Judging from the record, it's clear that the journal was instrumental in CNN's Wednesday night story about Ambassador Stevens and the al-Qaeda angle. That piece was unflattering to the interests of the State Department, which, after all, is entrusted with protecting its personnel overseas. Is that why State is so upset over this matter? Not at all, says Reines: "The reaction that they are getting [from State] is in response to their lying to the family," said Reines. As to the underlying story about how effectively State protected its people, Reines responds, "Questions about what happened are legitimate and are being asked and are being reviewed."

Now, on to how CNN handled the family of the late ambassador. The network appeared to be leading from behind when it asked for permission to use the journal in its broadcasts – an approach that suggests that the family had veto rights over the material. A more headstrong news organization would have politely told the family that it had recovered this personal effect, had reviewed it and was inclined to use the material. Had the family objected, CNN could have responded that it would take its wishes into consideration but would issue no guarantees. Says Reines: "If they had Mirandized the family in that phone call ... I would say I disagree and I probably would appeal, but at the end of the day I would disparage them to my colleagues and would say the media sucks and here's another example, but I wouldn't make an argument to them on the law."

###

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For more information on Agence France-Presse, please visit our web site at <http://www.afp.com>

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 23, 2012 4:28 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: CNN Statement

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

A couple of things:

I'm not certain what you're basing your statement of the security situation being improved. Pretty sure the Post doesn't have anyone on the ground to say that with their own reporting. When I watch networks that do have people on the ground, as recently as yesterday they were reporting that there was continued violence. It clearly remains dangerous.

The FBI has sent a team to Libya, and they will be in Benghazi as the security situation allows

This assault claimed four American lives. It was ferocious with a lethality we have not had brought to bear against our diplomatic posts. The assault was sustained, with the structure on the compound ablaze. It was similar in ferocity to what our military installations sometimes face, and even they're significant defenses are breached. So the number one priority was to prevent any further loss of life. The US personnel on the ground had to fight their way out and to the airport to be evacuated to Tripoli.

**From:** Bennett, Charles [mailto:[redacted]]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 23, 2012 04:12 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: CNN Statement

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Did anyone ever address what the diary was doing out there so long? If not, does State have a statement on why it was left unsecured for so long, even after the security situation improved?

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 23, 2012 2:36 PM  
**To:** Bennett, Charles  
**Subject:** Re: CNN Statement

b6  
b7C

Looks right. But I thought it was 9/17 not 9/14

**From:** Bennett, Charles [mailto:[redacted]]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 23, 2012 02:32 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: CNN Statement

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

OK.  
Is this it. Right?

A spokesman for the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the nation's top intelligence officials, said "actionable intelligence would have meant that we either saw or heard something, through intelligence collection, that told us that a specific act was being planned or was imminent. As I have said, we are not aware of any actionable intelligence related to the attack in Benghazi."



Read more: <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2012/09/14/diplomatic-western-posts-targeted-repeatedly-in-benghazi-in-run-up-to-deadly/#ixzz27JqmP1io>

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2012/09/14/diplomatic-western-posts-targeted-repeatedly-in-benghazi-in-run-up-to-deadly/>

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**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 23, 2012 2:28 PM  
**To:** Bennett, Charles  
**Subject:** Re: CNN Statement

b6  
b7C

Let me do this on background because I can't speak for other agencies - but last week, maybe Monday, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence issued a statement that there was nothing like that. I'm paraphrasing. Let me know if you can't find it and I'll track it down.

---

**From:** Bennett, Charles [mailto:[redacted]]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 23, 2012 02:20 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: CNN Statement

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Understood. Let me phrase the question this way: Did Ambassador Stevens ever express concerns about the security situation in Benghazi or being part of some kind hit list?

---

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 23, 2012 2:19 PM  
**To:** Bennett, Charles  
**Subject:** Re: CNN Statement

b6  
b7C

To this moment we have no idea what's in the diary

---

**From:** Bennett, Charles [mailto:[redacted]]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 23, 2012 02:18 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: CNN Statement

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Received. Thanks.

What about the contents of the diary? Did Stevens ever express his worries about the security situation in Benghazi or, being include on a hit list to other State Dept officials?

Regards,

Chuck Bennett  
Reporter  
New York Post

[redacted] b6 Per DOS

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Sunday, September 23, 2012 2:00 PM  
To: Bennett, Charles  
Subject: Re: CNN Statement

b6  
b7c

Here you go - everything that follows is ON the record and attributable to me:

Given the truth of how this was handled, CNN patting themselves on the back is disgusting.

What they're not owning up to is reading and transcribing Chris's diary well before bothering to tell the family or anyone else that they took it from the site of the attack. Or that when they finally did inform them, they completely ignored the wishes of the family, and ultimately broke their pledge, made to the Stevens family only hours after they witnessed the return to the United States of Chris's remains.

Whose first instinct is to remove from a crime scene the diary of a man killed along with three other Americans serving our country, read it, transcribe it, email it around your newsroom for others to read, and only when their curiosity is fully satisfied thinks to call the family or notify the authorities?

Then, someone who seems to be a junior blogger at CNN, eventually called the Stevens family. Setting aside the question of why CNN didn't assign that obviously delicate call to someone more appropriate, that person didn't say, 'Hello, I know this is a terrible time, I'm sorry for your loss. But I'm sure you want your son's diary, where do you want it sent?' They instead took the opportunity to ask the family if CNN could report on its contents. Contents known only to Chris Stevens, and those at CNN who had already invaded his privacy.

They were told no.

At this point the Stevens family reached out to us to enlist our help with CNN.

When the seniormost levels of CNN were finally reached, they needed to be convinced to do the right thing. But not before they took another shot at convincing the family to let them report on the contents. A family member made it crystal clear directly to CNN that they wanted Chris's diary and would not make any other decisions until then. But that wasn't fast enough for CNN, so they graciously offered to send the family the transcript they'd already made and passed around internally, to put a rush on the family for their own purposes.

CNN then pressed for permission to at least take credit on-air for recovering the diary.

They were told no.

It was then made clear to CNN yet again that they wanted to look at it privately, together as a family before making any decisions. Period. CNN finally accepted what they were hearing, agreed to abide by the clear wishes of the Stevens family, and pledged not to use the diary or even allude to its existence until hearing back from the family to grant their permission.

But the Stevens family was never given that chance. It seems that four days is as long as CNN can control themselves, so they just went ahead and used it. Entirely because they felt like it. Anderson Cooper didn't even bother to offer any explanation as to why the network broke its promise to the family. And he only made that statement after CNN was contacted by reporters asking CNN to explain their convoluted sourcing.

CNN's actions and Cooper's admission, and subsequent statements by CNN raise serious questions that they won't answer. Because they can't without indicting their own behavior.

But there is one question more than any other that they need to answer: If they weren't going to respect the family's wishes, why did CNN even bother to ask them what they wanted to happen with the diary? CNN had already read every word of the diary before speaking with the family. They knew exactly what it contained. If they had assessed based on what they read that they had a responsibility to the public to report on the contents of the diary, why didn't they just say that right away, explain it to the family, and then proceed as they deemed appropriate and necessary? Nothing in the diary changed over the days that followed. From the outset, CNN had every piece of information they needed to make an editorial judgment. So why the ruse?

The answer is simple: the only thing that changed as the days went on was CNN's integrity.

They should never have made that promise if they felt compelled to report on the contents of the diary. The pride they are now showing in their journalistic responsibilities should have been on display from the moment they picked the diary up off the ground.

They could have spared themselves the trouble, spared their own viewers from being misled about how they came to their reporting, and more important than anything else, spared the family from the emotional whiplash CNN created.

They have yet to even try to defend the indefensible. Not a proud episode in CNN's history. I'm sure there are many good people in the CNN newsroom equally appalled by what happened and are now wondering who above them authorized this despicable course of action.

\*\*\*

[Here is the above referenced statement Anderson Cooper made on air, 8:18pm, Friday 9/21/12: "On Wednesday we reported that a source familiar with ambassador Stevens' thinking said in the months before his death, ambassador Stevens talked about being worried about what he called the never-ending security threats in Benghazi. We also reported that the ambassador specifically mentioned the rise in Islamic extremism, the growing al Qaeda presence in Libya and said he was on an al Qaeda hit list. The information for that report like all of CNN's reporting was carefully vetted. Some of that information was found in a personal journal of ambassador Stevens in his handwriting. We came upon the journal through our reporting and notified the family. At their request, we returned that journal to them. We reported what we found newsworthy in the ambassador's writings. A reporter followed up on what we found newsworthy in the ambassador's writings."]

---

From: Bennett, Charles [mailto: ]  
Sent: Sunday, September 23, 2012 12:53 PM  
To:   
Subject: CNN Statement

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Hi [ ] Can you please send me the statement RE CNN and the late Ambassador Steven's diary.  
Thanks,

Chuck Bennett  
Reporter  
New York Post

b6 Per DOS

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**From:** [REDACTED] (PACE) [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 4:50 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] (PACE); PA PRS\_Issues  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] (PACE) [REDACTED] b6  
[REDACTED] PA FO Core; PA OBS\_BS&P; PA RPT Group; [REDACTED] b7C  
[REDACTED] (PA); Toner, Mark C  
**Subject:** RE: DRAFT TRANSCRIPT: S camera spray with Libyan President

Edited version below; please let me know if this is ok to release. Thank you. [REDACTED]

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**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE**  
**Office of the Spokesperson**

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**For Immediate Release**  
**September 24, 2012**  
**2012/09/24**

**REMARKS**

**Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton  
And Libyan President Mohamed Magariaf  
Before Their Meeting**

**September 24, 2012  
Waldorf-Astoria  
New York, New York**

**SECRETARY CLINTON:** Well, it's wonderful to welcome the President of Libya and his distinguished delegation here to New York.

As we all know, the United States lost a great ambassador and the Libyan people lost a true friend when Chris Stevens and three other Americans were killed in the terrorist assault on our consulate in Benghazi.

Through everything, the President and the Libyan Government have been staunch partners to the United States. I want to thank them in person, as we already have through communications and through your Ambassador, for the important efforts that they are taking to help find and bring to justice all those responsible for the attacks. I'd also like to thank the Libyan people for the outpouring of support they have shown to not only Ambassador Stevens, but on behalf of the United States.

This summer, the Libyan people had the chance to choose their own leaders, and we have a President who has been freely chosen by the Libyan people. Courage has been the defining characteristic of the Libyan people over these last two years – courage to rise up and overthrow a dictator; courage to choose the hard path of democracy; courage to stand against violence and division in their country and the world. And Mr. President, that kind of courage deserves our support.

The United States was proud to stand with you and the Libyan people as you fought for your country last year. And we will continue to stand with you as you now write Libya's new future as a democracy that will give all of your people a chance to have a better future.

Thank you.

**PRESIDENT MAGARIAF:** (Via interpreter.) Madam Secretary, at the outset, I would like to thank you, Secretary of State Clinton, for these kind words that you have expressed towards our Libyan people, towards the Libyan revolution, and toward the General National Congress of Libya that is today the legitimate and – the legitimacy and the legitimate authority in Libya.

Madam Secretary, I wouldn't wish to speak for long, but however, before we continue, I would like to express – again – reiterate the expression of my sincerest condolences, the condolences of the Libyan National Congress, the Libyan Government, the Libyan people, to you, to President Obama, and to the American people and to the families of the victims that fell during this painful, tragic tragedy. And they were the victims Ambassador Chris Stevens and his three comrades.

Madam Secretary, that was a very painful, huge tragedy, not only to the American people and the families of the victims but also for the Libyan people. The Libyan people lost a friend, lost someone who was very supportive of them, someone who was very supportive of their revolution, and someone who was always there for them.

Madam Secretary, undoubtedly, the understanding that was expressed by President Obama, by you as Secretary of State, towards these tragic events and your positive expression to continue to support Libya has led to mitigating the repercussions of this regrettable tragedy and incident on our close relationship.

Madam Secretary, their support, of course, mitigated the repercussions and the consequences. However, on the other hand, that support also furthered the responsibility on our shoulders towards taking responsibility – a great responsibility – for this tragedy and also let us look at the necessity to expedite the investigation in the incident and to pursue – to bring to justice those perpetrators. Of course, we are – we express our great readiness to cooperate with the U.S. Government in order to cooperate in the investigation and bring those perpetrators to justice.

Madam Secretary, I also will seize this opportunity to reaffirm that what happened on the 11th of September towards these U.S. citizens does not express in any way the conscience of the Libyan people, their aspirations, their hopes, or their sentiments towards the American people.

Madam Secretary, and I am confident that the protest that happened last Friday in Benghazi and the other protests that took place across the Libyan cities in protest to what happened are a very clear message to how we feel toward the United States. These protests embodied the conscience of the Libyan people. The Libyan people have spoken through these protests last Friday and expressed their true sentiments, how they feel towards the U.S. Administration and American people. You have mentioned the courage of the Libyan people, and we truly appreciate those words.

Madam Secretary, there is no doubt that the Libyan people have shown to the world and perhaps to across the world with their true courage and their love for their country and for the love for the freedom.

Madam Secretary, their courage would not have been possible for them also to win over a tyrant if it were not for the unlimited U.S. support, the political and military support of the United States, and the United States support in – at all levels that was given to the Libyan revolution, that the U.S. Administration gave to the Libyan revolution as well as your support, President Obama's support, the American people's support, and the support of the entire international community to this revolution.

This not only makes it our duty to thank you, thank the United States as well as the international community for that support, but that also makes it our duty to rise up to the level of the confidence and the trust that you, the United States, and the international community have put in us.

Madam Secretary, of course, despite all the challenges, the perils, the difficulties, and the – all the obstacles that we faced, the Libyan people were able – humbly as well as with pride – to show to the world the degree of their keenness to safeguard this revolution and to make it a success in order to bring about the goals – the noble and great goals of this revolution, mainly to establish a constitutional, democratic, civil state that would be based on pluralism and a peaceful transfer of authority.

Undoubtedly, these elections that happened over the past summer and brought about the General National Congress in Libya and also demonstrated the transparent elections that brought to power a new prime minister, all these events show and send a message of the new road that Libya is determined to take.

I am confident that the General National Congress and this new government – the new government are keen on undertaking their duties and fulfilling their responsibilities with integrity and sincerity as well as responsibility towards the world.

# # #

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**From:** [redacted] (PACE) [redacted]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 5:17 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (PACE); PA PRS Issues  
**Cc:** [redacted] (PACE); PA FO Core; PA OBS\_BS&P; PA RPT Group [redacted] (PA); Toner, Mark C; [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: DRAFT TRANSCRIPT: S camera spray with Libyan President

Will do, thx. [redacted]

---

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 5:17 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (PACE); [redacted] (PACE); PA PRS Issues  
**Cc:** [redacted] (PACE); PA FO Core; PA OBS\_BS&P; PA RPT Group [redacted] (PA); Toner, Mark C; [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: DRAFT TRANSCRIPT: S camera spray with Libyan President

[redacted]  
Yes please release.

---

**From:** [redacted] (PACE) [redacted]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 04:49 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (PACE); PA PRS Issues  
**Cc:** [redacted] (PACE); PA FO Core; PA OBS\_BS&P; PA RPT Group [redacted] (PA); Toner, Mark C  
**Subject:** RE: DRAFT TRANSCRIPT: S camera spray with Libyan President

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**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE**  
**Office of the Spokesperson**

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**For Immediate Release**  
**September 24, 2012**  
**2012/09/24**

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**And Libyan President Mohamed Magariaf**  
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###

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**From:** [REDACTED] (PACE) [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 4:17 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] (PACE); PA PRS Issues  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] (PACE) [REDACTED] b6  
[REDACTED] PA FO Core; PA OBS\_BS&P, PA RPT Group [REDACTED] b7C  
[REDACTED] (PA), Toner, Mark C  
**Subject:** RE: DRAFT TRANSCRIPT: S camera spray with Libyan President

Got it.

---

**From:** [REDACTED] (PACE)  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 4:16 PM  
**To:** PA PRS Issues  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] (PACE) [REDACTED] PA FO  
Core; PA OBS\_BS&P; PA RPT Group [REDACTED] (PA); Toner, Mark C  
**Subject:** DRAFT TRANSCRIPT: S camera spray with Libyan President b6  
b7C

The draft transcript of the Secretary's camera spray with the Libyan President is ready for editing, saved in her press conferences and camera sprays folder.

Editor, the audio to use for proofing is called 09242012 Libya Camera Spray and is saved in the September audio files folder. Please confirm receipt. Thanks.

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE**  
**Office of the Spokesperson**

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**For Immediate Release**  
**2012/xxx**

**September 24, 2012**

**REMARKS**

**Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton**  
**And Libyan President Mohamed Magariaf**  
**Before Their Meeting**

**September 24, 2012**  
**Waldorf-Astoria**  
**New York, New York**

**UNEDITED/DRAFT**

**SECRETARY CLINTON:** Well, it's wonderful to welcome the President of Libya and his distinguished delegation here to New York.

As we all know, the United States lost a great ambassador and the Libyan people lost a true friend when Chris Stevens and three other Americans were killed in the terrorist assault on our consulate in Benghazi.

Through everything, the President and the Libyan Government have been staunch partners to the United States. I want to thank them in person, as we already have through communications and through your Ambassador, for the important efforts that they are taking to help find and bring to justice all those responsible for the attacks. I'd also like to thank the

Libyan people for the outpouring of support they have shown to not only Ambassador Stevens, but on behalf of the United States.

This summer, the Libyan people had the chance to choose their own leaders, and we have a President who has been freely chosen by the Libyan people. Courage has been the defining characteristic of the Libyan people over these last two years – courage to rise up and overthrow a dictator; courage to choose the hard path of democracy; courage to stand against violence and division in their country and the world. And Mr. President, that kind of courage deserves our support.

The United States was proud to stand with you and the Libyan people as you fought for your country last year. And we will continue to stand with you as you now write Libya's new future as a democracy that will give all of your people a chance to have a better future.

Thank you.

**PRESIDENT MAGARIAF:** (Via interpreter.) Madam Secretary, at the outset, I would like to thank you, Secretary of State Clinton, for these kind words that you have expressed towards our Libyan people, towards the Libyan revolution, and toward the General National Congress of Libya that is today the legitimate and – the legitimacy and the legitimate authority in Libya.

Madam Secretary, I wouldn't wish to speak for long, but however, before we continue, I would like to express – again reiterate the expression of my sincerest condolences, the condolences of the Libyan National Congress, the Libyan Government, the Libyan people, to you, to President Obama, and to the American people and to the families of the victims that fell during this painful, tragic tragedy. And they were the victims Ambassador Chris Stevens and his three comrades.

Madam Secretary, that was a very painful, huge tragedy, not only to the American people and the families of the victims but also for the Libyan people. The Libyan people lost a friend, lost someone who was very supportive of them, someone who was very supportive of their revolution, and someone who was always there for them.

Madam Secretary, undoubtedly, the understanding that was expressed by President Obama, by you as Secretary of State, towards these tragic events and your positive expression to continue to support Libya has led to mitigating the repercussions of this regrettable tragedy and incident on our close relationship.

Madam Secretary, their support, of course, mitigated the repercussions and the consequences, however, on the other hand, that support also furthered the responsibility on our shoulders towards taking responsibility – a great responsibility – for this tragedy and also let us look at the necessity to expedite the investigation in the incident and to pursue – to bring to justice those perpetrators. Of course, we are – we express our great readiness to cooperate with the U.S. Government in order to cooperate in the investigation and bring those perpetrators to justice.

Madam Secretary, I also will seize this opportunity to reaffirm that what happened on the 11th of September towards these U.S. citizens does not express in any way the conscience of the Libyan people, their aspirations, their hopes, or their sentiments towards the American people.

Madam Secretary, and I am confident that the protest that happened last Friday in Benghazi and the other protests that took place across the Libyan cities in protest to what happened are a very clear message to how we feel toward the United States. These protests embodied the conscience of the Libyan people. The Libyan people have spoken through these protests last Friday and expressed their true sentiments, how they feel towards the U.S. Administration and American people. You have mentioned the courage of the Libyan people, and we truly appreciate those words.

Madam Secretary, there is no doubt that the Libyan people have shown to the world and perhaps to across the world with their true courage and their love for their country and for the love for the freedom.

Madam Secretary, their courage would not have been possible for them also to win over a tyrant if it were not for the unlimited U.S. support, the political and military support of the United States, and the United States support in – at all levels that was given to the Libyan revolution that the U.S. Administration gave to the Libyan revolution as well as your support, President Obama's support, the American people's support, and the support of the entire international community to this revolution.

This not only makes it our duty to thank you, thank the United States as well as the international community for that support, but that also makes it our duty to rise up to the level of the confidence and the trust that you, the United States, and the international community have put in us.

Madam Secretary, of course, despite all the challenges, the perils, the difficulties, and the – all the obstacles that we faced, the Libyan people were able – humbly as well as with pride – to show to the world the degree of their keenness to safeguard this revolution and to make it a success in order to bring about the goals – the noble and great goals of this revolution, mainly to establish a constitutional, democratic, civil state that would be based on pluralism and a peaceful transfer of authority.

Undoubtedly, these elections that happened over the past summer and brought about the General National Congress in Libya and also demonstrated the transparent elections that brought to power a new prime minister, all these events show and send a message of the new road that Libya is determined to take.

I am confident that the General National Congress and this new government – the new government are keen on undertaking their duties and fulfilling their responsibilities with integrity and sincerity as well as responsibility towards the world.

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From: Joanna BIDDLE [redacted]  
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2012 11:21 AM  
To: [redacted]  
Cc: Nicolas REVISE  
Subject: RE: CNN's Explanation(s)

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Hi [redacted]

b6  
b7C

Apologies if I wasn't clear. CNN say they found the journal in the ruins of the compound several days after the attack. I realize that all the American staff had been evacuated, but was there any liaison with Libyan security partners to check whether any documents had been left behind? I realize the compound was temporary too.

Further that, could you comment please on CNN's use of the diary? All shall we just use what you sent yesterday to everyone, thanks, Jo

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Sent: Monday, September 24, 2012 11:14 AM  
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Cc: Nicolas REVISE  
Subject: Re: CNN's Explanation(s)

b6  
b7C

Hi Joanna

Confused by your question - swept when exactly and by who? I think you know from covering us and the daily briefings that the compound was under assault, they had to fight their way out - while the structure was still fully ablaze - and then to the airport when all USG personnel were evacuated to Tripoli.

Aside from that, we've also made clear that the compound in Benghazi was temporary and therefore didn't have any permanent classified processing.

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From: Joanna BIDDLE [mailto:[redacted]]  
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2012 09:05 AM  
To: [redacted]  
Cc: Nicolas REVISE [redacted]  
Subject: RE: CNN's Explanation(s)

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Good morning [redacted]

Set up at CGI, for the Secretary's remarks this morning. I'm afraid our editors want us to write something on CNN's release of ambassador Stevens's diary, which so far we hadn't written about. Could you please let us have either your original statement, or a new one with a reaction to CNN's allegations about "shooting the messenger." Further to that there is an issue about how they were able to get hold of it diary, when surely the Benghazi mission should have been carefully swept in case any classified documents had survived the fire. What are your comments on that issue?

Thanks so much, Jo

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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Sunday, September 23, 2012 4:00 PM  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: CNN's Explanation(s)

b6  
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All -

Excuse the intrusion on your Sunday, but I've heard from more than half of you or the media outlets you represent asking for reaction to CNN's atrocious behavior in the handling of Ambassador Stevens's diary, as originally reported by The Wall Street Journal, and expanded on by The Washington Post just a little while ago.

I continue to hear from many of you still trying to comprehend why CNN did what they did, so I just want to bring everyone up to speed at once.

I also know that to many of you, this is not simply a 'story' as you knew or worked with Chris, and find this as distasteful as everyone here at State does.

I'm more than happy to send my existing statement. But I want to wait in case CNN issues another excuse of the day in order to address it. I'm struggling to keep up with them since they are clearly having a hard time settling on a single credible explanation that gets them off the hook for lying to the family. They keep changing their tune, issuing inadequate, confusing, and conflicting explanations, offering four in as many days, some on air, some by paper. Even as I type I'm hearing they're trying on a new one for size, peddling that the family didn't really understand what CNN said to them. Never mind that there were five people on the call that CNN is claiming four people misunderstood.

So once they finally get their latest story straight and stick to it, I'll follow up with you all. Not sure that will be anytime soon since it's clear they don't know how to explain, let alone justify their actions. And I'm certainly not going to hold my breath until someone is held accountable.

In the meantime, here is the Post story I mentioned above, you might find it helpful:

CNN vs. the State Department: A Long Story By Erik Wemple The Washington Post Posted at 02:37 PM ET, 09/23/2012

CNN's Anderson Cooper on Wednesday night brought his viewers some big news about the fatal Sept. 11 attacks against the U.S. consulate and nearby annex in Benghazi, Libya. All manner of details on the provenance and circumstances of the assaults that claimed the lives of U.S. Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens and three others have been unclear or in dispute. So the information that CNN divulged found an eager audience. Here's Cooper:

Now, you are looking at the scene just outside the consulate in Benghazi as a pro-American crowd tried to rush Ambassador Stevens, who was wounded, still alive, to the hospital. Tonight, [CNN] obtains exclusive information about the climate that led up to all of this.

A source familiar with Ambassador Stevens' thinking said in the months before his death, he talked about being worried about what he called the never-ending security threats, specifically in Benghazi. The source [is] telling us that the ambassador specifically mentioned the rise in Islamic extremism, the growing al-Qaeda presence in Libya, and said that he was on an al-Qaeda hit list.

Exclusive, foreign, terrorism-related, breaking news – that's so CNN. The Web ate the story for breakfast and lunch the next day. On Friday night, Cooper returned to the topic of Stevens, this time with more compelling stuff:

The information for [Wednesday's] report, like all of CNN's reporting, was carefully vetted. Some of that information was found in a personal journal of Ambassador Stevens in his handwriting. We came upon the journal through our reporting and notified the family.

At their request, we returned that journal to them. We reported what we found newsworthy in the ambassador's writings. Our reporting followed up on what we found newsworthy, as I said, in the ambassador's writings.

Those are six very heavy sentences. And there's an extensive story behind them, as the Wall Street Journal and the Huffington Post reported on Saturday. The family of the late ambassador had requested that CNN not issue any reports based on the journal – or even reference its existence – before the family consented. CNN agreed to abide by the family's wishes, according to Philippe Reines, a State Department spokesman who listened in on a conference call between a CNN executive and a representative of the Stevens family.

State and CNN have spent a good part of the weekend trading nasty words on the spat. The length of this State Department tract alone makes clear just how peeved its leadership is:

Given the truth of how this was handled, CNN patting themselves on the back is disgusting.

What they're not owning up to is reading and transcribing Chris's diary well before bothering to tell the family or anyone else that they took it from the site of the attack. Or that when they finally did tell them, they completely ignored the wishes of the family, and ultimately broke their pledge made to them only hours after they witnessed the return to the United States of Chris's remains.

Whose first instinct is to remove from a crime scene the diary of a man killed along with three other Americans serving our country, read it, transcribe it, email it around your newsroom for others to read, and only when their curiosity is fully satisfied thinks to call the family or notify the authorities?

When a junior person at CNN called, they didn't say, 'Hello, I know this is a terrible time, but I'm sure you want your son's diary, where do you want it sent?' They instead took the opportunity to ask the family if CNN could report on its contents. Contents known only to Chris Stevens, and those at CNN who had already invaded his privacy.

When the seniormost levels of CNN were finally reached, they needed to be convinced to do the right thing. But not before they took a second shot at convincing the family to let them report on the contents. A family member made it crystal clear directly to CNN that they wanted Chris's diary and would not make any other decisions until then. But that wasn't fast enough for CNN, so they helpfully offered to send the family the transcript they'd already made and passed around, to put a rush on it for their own purposes.

It was then made clear to them, for what must have been the fourth time in the same call, that they wanted to look at it privately, together as a family before making any decisions. Period. CNN finally heard their request enough times that they had to accept it, agreed to abide by the clear wishes of the Stevens family, and pledged not to use the diary or even allude to its existence until hearing back from the family.

But the Stevens family was never given that chance. I guess four days was as long as CNN could control themselves, so they just went ahead and used it. Entirely because they felt like it. Anderson Cooper didn't even bother to offer any other explanation as to why the

network broke its promise to the family. And only did so after being contacted by a reporter asking about the diary and their convoluted sourcing.

How do they justify that? They have yet to even try to defend the indefensible. Not a proud episode in CNN's history. I'm sure there are many good people in the CNN newsroom equally appalled by this decision and wondering who above them authorized this course of action.

And CNN:

We think the public had a right to know what CNN had learned from multiple sources about the fears and warnings of a terror threat before the Benghazi attack which are now raising questions about why the State Department didn't do more to protect Ambassador Stevens and other U.S. personnel. Perhaps the real question here is why is the State Department now attacking the messenger.

In sum, an extraordinary disagreement between this country's foreign-policy shop and one of its more aggressive agents of foreign reportage. It all stems from the unique circumstances that unraveled on Sept. 11. The attacks on the consulate and annex were severe enough that the State Department evacuated all U.S. personnel from the compound, leaving, in effect, an unsecured crime scene.

A full three days after the attack, CNN senior international correspondent Arwa Damon found Stevens' journal at the site of the Benghazi consulate, according to Reines.

Reines found out about the journal not long after a "return of remains" ceremony for Ambassador Stevens and the other victims at Andrews Air Force Base on Friday, Sept. 14. He received a call from State's protocol office alerting him that someone from CNN had called the Stevens family with the news that they'd recovered the ambassador's journal. To CNN's request to report on its contents, the family member responded in the negative.

The Stevens family wanted State's help, so Reines got in touch with a Stevens family member who confirmed the story for him. Now Reines wanted to chat with CNN, so he e-mailed the woman - CNN staffer Meredith Edwards - who'd reportedly contacted the Stevens family. No reply. Next on the list was Mark Whitaker, a ranking CNN news executive. Reines asked Whitaker whether the story he'd heard was accurate. Whitaker confirmed the gist of things but wasn't forthcoming, recalls Reines: "He was clearly sheepish and defensive from the beginning," says Reines. "He said, 'We're talking to our lawyers.' And I said, 'Mark, if you're talking to your lawyers, then you know you're on shaky ground.'"

That call was merely a prelude to more calls. Later that Friday, Reines chatted with Richard Griffiths, a key CNN editorial official who confirmed possession of the Stevens diary and explained that the late ambassador had procured it in Stockholm and had started writing in it on his last holiday. Reines discussed getting Griffiths on the line with the Stevens family to hash out the affair. Griffiths then told Reines how he'd pitch the family: That the journal provided a beautiful window into Stevens's character and dedication to his work and that they'd like permission to go ahead and use it on air.

In a subsequent conference call with the family and State officials, CNN's Griffiths "regurgitated" the script, Reines says. The family member listened and said no. Reines: "The family member thoughtfully and clearly told Griffiths that this was Chris's personal property and that they believed it was their personal property now, that they wanted it back and that they would not make any other decisions about it" until they reviewed it. There wasn't an insistence that they'd never bless its use, nor an indication that they would - just a preference that they jointly take a look at the contents before making any decisions.

Griffiths asked if the family would be okay with CNN at least saying that it had recovered the journal on the site of the attacks and had returned it to the family. Family member: No.



After that rejection, Griffiths told the Stevens family member that CNN had transcribed the diary and could pass it along in e-mail format. The family member declined to share an e-mail address, so the parties agreed that Griffiths would send the text to Reines, who would then forward it on to the Stevens family. Reines fulfilled his middleman role and says he has never glimpsed at the contents of the e-mail; nor has any State Department official had access to it, he says.

One clear takeaway from the conference call, says Reines, is CNN's standing on the question of family deference. It was absolute, he says - Griffiths stated that the network would honor the wishes of the family not to mention the journal on air. "There was no other caveat or asterisk," says Reines, whose account was corroborated by two other State Department sources who overheard the conference call.

The next step was arranging for Damon to pass the journal along to an Italian diplomat so that it could be delivered back to the family. "The first order of business was getting this out of CNN's hands, given their behavior and their insensitive interactions with the family," says Reines.

Things were quiet until the following week, when Cooper began what Reines called "breathless" coverage alleging that Stevens believed he was on an al-Qaeda hit list. That information, in Cooper's wording, was based on an anonymous source. "They constructed something that allowed them to satisfy their minimal journalistic standards to break their pledge to the family," says Reines.

The network differs, saying that it had "multiple sources" for that information. "Out of respect to the family, we have not quoted from or shown the journal," says a CNN statement.

CNN never apprised anyone in the Stevens family of its plans to mention the journal on air, says Reines, though a CNN source insists that the network tried many times to reach the family after the Sept. 14 conference call, "to no avail." In its statement, CNN gives this explanation for discussing the item on air:

The reason CNN ultimately reported Friday on the existence of the journal was because leaks to media organizations incorrectly suggested CNN had not quickly returned the journal, which we did.

Odd bit of reasoning: Did CNN run some material because someone had apparently peddled false rumors to other news outlets? The Wall Street Journal, says Reines, was poking around at this story, asking CNN if it was true that it had come into possession of the Stevens journal. (The Wall Street Journal declined to comment on the matter).

"[CNN's] explanation for breaking their promise to the ambassador's family is that someone was leaking on them, rather than any kind of responsibility to their own standards," says Reines. "That is hardly a profile in courage." Aside from this non-consideration, says Reines, CNN's editorial formulations didn't change from the moment it spoke with the family to the time that it apprised its viewers of the journal. "The only thing that changed was their integrity," says Reines.

Any fair accounting of this dispute must start with an endorsement of CNN's industriousness. That a reporter from the network got to the scene and fetched an item that no one else had found speaks well of CNN and its commitment to international reporting. If CNN hadn't been on the ground, after all, the Stevens family may never have recovered the journal. That a news organization, and not a U.S. government entity, scored the journal speaks ill of the latter.

From there, the story gets more complicated. Journals enjoy an exalted cone of privacy among civilized people: Hands off.

That cone shatters, of course, when we're talking about the writings of an ambassador who's been killed in a high-profile attack in a volatile foreign country. Reflections and information in the journal may be of immediate public interest, an imperative that steamrolls any considerations about privacy. Not only was CNN right to read and copy the journal, but also it was obligated by its newsgathering mission to do so.

Judging from the record, it's clear that the journal was instrumental in CNN's Wednesday night story about Ambassador Stevens and the al-Qaeda angle. That piece was unflattering to the interests of the State Department, which, after all, is entrusted with protecting its personnel overseas. Is that why State is so upset over this matter? Not at all, says Reines: "The reaction that they are getting [from State] is in response to their lying to the family," said Reines. As to the underlying story about how effectively State protected its people, Reines responds, "Questions about what happened are legitimate and are being asked and are being reviewed."

Now, on to how CNN handled the family of the late ambassador. The network appeared to be leading from behind when it asked for permission to use the journal in its broadcasts - an approach that suggests that the family had veto rights over the material. A more headstrong news organization would have politely told the family that it had recovered this personal effect, had reviewed it and was inclined to use the material. Had the family objected, CNN could have responded that it would take its wishes into consideration but would issue no guarantees. Says Reines: "If they had Mirandized the family in that phone call ... I would say I disagree and I probably would appeal, but at the end of the day I would disparage them to my colleagues and would say the media sucks and here's another example, but I wouldn't make an argument to them on the law."

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For more information on Agence France-Presse, please visit our web site at <http://www.afp.com>.

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2012 11:41 AM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc:  
Subject: Re: CNN's Explanation(s)

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

I will check on your first question

OFF the record: on your second question, I am waiting to see what CNN does today before commenting further, so using what I wrote yesterday or the day before is stale. If they change their tune today, I will react to that.

----- Original Message -----

From: Joanna BIDDLE [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2012 11:21 AM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: Nicolas REVISE [REDACTED]  
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Sent: Monday, September 24, 2012 09:05 AM

b6 Per DOS

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Cc: Nicolas REVISE [redacted]  
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But the Stevens family was never given that chance. I guess four days was as long as CNN could control themselves, so they just went ahead and used it. Entirely because they felt like it. Anderson Cooper didn't even bother to offer any other explanation as to why the network broke its promise to the family. And only did so after being contacted by a reporter asking about the diary and their convoluted sourcing.

How do they justify that? They have yet to even try to defend the indefensible. Not a proud episode in CNN's history. I'm sure there are many good people in the CNN newsroom equally appalled by this decision and wondering who above them authorized this course of action.

And CNN:

We think the public had a right to know what CNN had learned from multiple sources about the fears and warnings of a terror threat before the Benghazi attack which are now raising questions about why the State Department didn't do more to protect Ambassador Stevens and other U.S. personnel. Perhaps the real question here is why is the State Department now attacking the messenger.

In sum, an extraordinary disagreement between this country's foreign-policy shop and one of its more aggressive agents of foreign reportage. It all stems from the unique circumstances that unraveled on Sept. 11. The attacks on the consulate and annex were severe enough that the State Department evacuated all U.S. personnel from the compound, leaving, in effect, an unsecured crime scene.

A full three days after the attack, CNN senior international correspondent Arwa Damon found Stevens' journal at the site of the Benghazi consulate, according to Reines.

Reines found out about the journal not long after a "return of remains" ceremony for Ambassador Stevens and the other victims at Andrews Air Force Base on Friday, Sept. 14. He received a call from State's protocol office alerting him that someone from CNN had called the Stevens family with the news that they'd recovered the ambassador's journal. To CNN's request to report on its contents, the family member responded in the negative.

The Stevens family wanted State's help, so Reines got in touch with a Stevens family member who confirmed the story for him. Now Reines wanted to chat with CNN, so he e-mailed the woman — CNN staffer Meredith Edwards — who'd reportedly contacted the Stevens family. No reply. Next on the list was Mark Whitaker, a ranking CNN news executive. Reines asked Whitaker whether the story he'd heard was accurate. Whitaker confirmed the gist of things but wasn't forthcoming, recalls Reines: "He was clearly sheepish and defensive from the beginning," says Reines. "He said, 'We're talking to our lawyers.' And I said, 'Mark, if you're talking to your lawyers, then you know you're on shaky ground.'"

That call was merely a prelude to more calls. Later that Friday, Reines chatted with Richard Griffiths, a key CNN editorial official who confirmed possession of the Stevens diary and explained that the late ambassador had procured it in Stockholm and had started writing in it on his last holiday. Reines discussed getting Griffiths on the line with the Stevens family to hash out the affair. Griffiths then told Reines how he'd pitch the family: That the

journal provided a beautiful window into Stevens's character and dedication to his work and that they'd like permission to go ahead and use it on air.

In a subsequent conference call with the family and State officials, CNN's Griffiths "regurgitated" the script, Reines says. The family member listened and said no. Reines: "The family member thoughtfully and clearly told Griffiths that this was Chris's personal property and that they believed it was their personal property now, that they wanted it back and that they would not make any other decisions about it" until they reviewed it. There wasn't an insistence that they'd never bless its use, nor an indication that they would - just a preference that they jointly take a look at the contents before making any decisions.

Griffiths asked if the family would be okay with CNN at least saying that it had recovered the journal on the site of the attacks and had returned it to the family. Family member: No.

After that rejection, Griffiths told the Stevens family member that CNN had transcribed the diary and could pass it along in e-mail format. The family member declined to share an e-mail address, so the parties agreed that Griffiths would send the text to Reines, who would then forward it on to the Stevens family. Reines fulfilled his middleman role and says he has never glimpsed at the contents of the e-mail; nor has any State Department official had access to it, he says.

One clear takeaway from the conference call, says Reines, is CNN's standing on the question of family deference. It was absolute, he says - Griffiths stated that the network would honor the wishes of the family not to mention the journal on air. "There was no other caveat or asterisk," says Reines, whose account was corroborated by two other State Department sources who overheard the conference call.

The next step was arranging for Damon to pass the journal along to an Italian diplomat so that it could be delivered back to the family. "The first order of business was getting this out of CNN's hands, given their behavior and their insensitive interactions with the family," says Reines.

Things were quiet until the following week, when Cooper began what Reines called "breathless" coverage alleging that Stevens believed he was on an al-Qaeda hit list. That information, in Cooper's wording, was based on an anonymous source. "They constructed something that allowed them to satisfy their minimal journalistic standards to break their pledge to the family," says Reines.

The network differs, saying that it had "multiple sources" for that information. "Out of respect to the family, we have not quoted from or shown the journal," says a CNN statement.

CNN never apprised anyone in the Stevens family of its plans to mention the journal on air, says Reines, though a CNN source insists that the network tried many times to reach the family after the Sept. 14 conference call, "to no avail." In its statement, CNN gives this explanation for discussing the item on air:

The reason CNN ultimately reported Friday on the existence of the journal was because leaks to media organizations incorrectly suggested CNN had not quickly returned the journal, which we did.

Odd bit of reasoning: Did CNN run some material because someone had apparently peddled false rumors to other news outlets? The Wall Street Journal, says Reines, was poking around at this story, asking CNN if it was true that it had come into possession of the Stevens journal. (The Wall Street Journal declined to comment on the matter).

"[CNN's] explanation for breaking their promise to the ambassador's family is that someone was leaking on them, rather than any kind of responsibility to their own standards," says

Reines. "That is hardly a profile in courage." Aside from this non-consideration, says Reines, CNN's editorial formulations didn't change from the moment it spoke with the family to the time that it apprised its viewers of the journal. "The only thing that changed was their integrity," says Reines.

Any fair accounting of this dispute must start with an endorsement of CNN's industriousness. That a reporter from the network got to the scene and fetched an item that no one else had found speaks well of CNN and its commitment to international reporting. If CNN hadn't been on the ground, after all, the Stevens family may never have recovered the journal. That a news organization, and not a U.S. government entity, scored the journal speaks ill of the latter.

From there, the story gets more complicated. Journals enjoy an exalted cone of privacy among civilized people: Hands off.

That cone shatters, of course, when we're talking about the writings of an ambassador who's been killed in a high-profile attack in a volatile foreign country. Reflections and information in the journal may be of immediate public interest, an imperative that steamrolls any considerations about privacy. Not only was CNN right to read and copy the journal, but also it was obligated by its newsgathering mission to do so.

Judging from the record, it's clear that the journal was instrumental in CNN's Wednesday night story about Ambassador Stevens and the al-Qaeda angle. That piece was unflattering to the interests of the State Department, which, after all, is entrusted with protecting its personnel overseas. Is that why State is so upset over this matter? Not at all, says Reines: "The reaction that they are getting [from State] is in response to their lying to the family," said Reines. As to the underlying story about how effectively State protected its people, Reines responds, "Questions about what happened are legitimate and are being asked and are being reviewed."

Now, on to how CNN handled the family of the late ambassador. The network appeared to be leading from behind when it asked for permission to use the journal in its broadcasts – an approach that suggests that the family had veto rights over the material. A more headstrong news organization would have politely told the family that it had recovered this personal effect, had reviewed it and was inclined to use the material. Had the family objected, CNN could have responded that it would take its wishes into consideration but would issue no guarantees. Says Reines: "If they had Mirandized the family in that phone call ... I would say I disagree and I probably would appeal, but at the end of the day I would disparage them to my colleagues and would say the media sucks and here's another example, but I wouldn't make an argument to them on the law."

###

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For more information on Agence France-Presse, please visit our web site at <http://www.afp.com>



From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2012 11:49 AM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Re: CNN's Explanation(s)

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Ok, just please make sure to clearly note that they are from yesterday.

And if helpful, feel free to say in your voice that [REDACTED] said he is waiting to comment any further until seeing what CNN does in light of the weekend's exchange.

----- Original Message -----

From: Joanna BIDDLE [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2012 11:42 AM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: Nicolas REVISE [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: CNN's Explanation(s)

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Ok thanks. As I said our editors in Paris have pushed to do a short story, so we used some of the comments you sent yesterday afternoon even though as you say it is "stale"

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2012 11:41 AM  
To: Joanna BIDDLE  
Cc: Nicolas REVISE  
Subject: Re: CNN's Explanation(s)

b6  
b7C

I will check on your first question

OFF the record: on your second question, I am waiting to see what CNN does today before commenting further, so using what I wrote yesterday or the day before is stale. If they change their tune today, I will react to that.

----- Original Message -----

From: Joanna BIDDLE [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2012 11:21 AM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: Nicolas REVISE [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: CNN's Explanation(s)

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Hi [REDACTED]

Apologies if I wasn't clear. CNN say they found the journal in the ruins of the compound several days after the attack. I realize that all the American staff had been evacuated, but was there any liaison with Libyan security partners to check whether any documents had been left behind? I realize the compound was temporary too.

Further that, could you comment please on CNN's use of the diary? All shall we just use what you sent yesterday to everyone, thanks, Jo

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2012 11:14 AM  
To: Joanna BIDDLE  
Cc: Nicolas REVISE  
Subject: Re: CNN's Explanation(s)

b6  
b7C

Hi Joanna

Confused by your question - swept when exactly and by who? I think you know from covering us and the daily briefings that the compound was under assault, they had to fight their way out - while the structure was still fully ablaze - and then to the airport when all USG personnel were evacuated to Tripoli.

Aside from that, we've also made clear that the compound in Benghazi was temporary and therefore didn't have any permanent classified processing.

----- Original Message -----

From: Joanna BIDDLE [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2012 09:05 AM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: Nicolas REVISE [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: CNN's Explanation(s)

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Good morning [REDACTED]

Set up at CGI, for the Secretary's remarks this morning. I'm afraid our editors want us to write something on CNN's release of ambassador Stevens's diary, which so far we hadn't written about. Could you please let us have either your original statement, or a new one with a reaction to CNN's allegations about "shooting the messenger." Further to that there is an issue about how they were able to get hold of it diary, when surely the Benghazi mission should have been carefully swept in case any classified documents had survived the fire. What are your comments on that issue?

Thanks so much, Jo

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Sunday, September 23, 2012 4:00 PM  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: CNN's Explanation(s)

b6  
b7C

All -

Excuse the intrusion on your Sunday, but I've heard from more than half of you or the media outlets you represent asking for reaction to CNN's atrocious behavior in the handling of Ambassador Stevens's diary, as originally reported by The Wall Street Journal, and expanded on by The Washington Post just a little while ago.

I continue to hear from many of you still trying to comprehend why CNN did what they did, so I just want to bring everyone up to speed at once.

HRC-9365

I also know that to many of you, this is not simply a 'story' as you knew or worked with Chris, and find this as distasteful as everyone here at State does.

I'm more than happy to send my existing statement. But I want to wait in case CNN issues another excuse of the day in order to address it. I'm struggling to keep up with them since they are clearly having a hard time settling on a single credible explanation that gets them off the hook for lying to the family. They keep changing their tune, issuing inadequate, confusing, and conflicting explanations, offering four in as many days, some on air, some by paper. Even as I type I'm hearing they're trying on a new one for size, peddling that the family didn't really understand what CNN said to them. Never mind that there were five people on the call that CNN is claiming four people misunderstood.

So once they finally get their latest story straight and stick to it, I'll follow up with you all. Not sure that will be anytime soon since it's clear they don't know how to explain, let alone justify their actions. And I'm certainly not going to hold my breath until someone is held accountable.

In the meantime, here is the Post story I mentioned above, you might find it helpful:

CNN vs. the State Department: A Long Story By Erik Wemple The Washington Post Posted at 02:37 PM ET, 09/23/2012

CNN's Anderson Cooper on Wednesday night brought his viewers some big news about the fatal Sept. 11 attacks against the U.S. consulate and nearby annex in Benghazi, Libya. All manner of details on the provenance and circumstances of the assaults that claimed the lives of U.S. Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens and three others have been unclear or in dispute. So the information that CNN divulged found an eager audience. Here's Cooper:

Now, you are looking at the scene just outside the consulate in Benghazi as a pro-American crowd tried to rush Ambassador Stevens, who was wounded, still alive, to the hospital. Tonight, [CNN] obtains exclusive information about the climate that led up to all of this.

A source familiar with Ambassador Stevens' thinking said in the months before his death, he talked about being worried about what he called the never-ending security threats, specifically in Benghazi. The source [is] telling us that the ambassador specifically mentioned the rise in Islamic extremism, the growing al-Qaeda presence in Libya, and said that he was on an al-Qaeda hit list.

Exclusive, foreign, terrorism-related, breaking news – that's so CNN. The Web ate the story for breakfast and lunch the next day. On Friday night, Cooper returned to the topic of Stevens, this time with more compelling stuff:

The information for [Wednesday's] report, like all of CNN's reporting, was carefully vetted. Some of that information was found in a personal journal of Ambassador Stevens in his handwriting. We came upon the journal through our reporting and notified the family.

At their request, we returned that journal to them. We reported what we found newsworthy in the ambassador's writings. Our reporting followed up on what we found newsworthy, as I said, in the ambassador's writings.

Those are six very heavy sentences. And there's an extensive story behind them, as the Wall Street Journal and the Huffington Post reported on Saturday. The family of the late ambassador had requested that CNN not issue any reports based on the journal – or even reference its existence – before the family consented. CNN agreed to abide by the family's wishes, according to Philippe Reines, a State Department spokesman who listened in on a conference call between a CNN executive and a representative of the Stevens family.

State and CNN have spent a good part of the weekend trading nasty words on the spat. The length of this State Department tract alone makes clear just how peeved its leadership is:

Given the truth of how this was handled, CNN patting themselves on the back is disgusting.

What they're not owning up to is reading and transcribing Chris's diary well before bothering to tell the family or anyone else that they took it from the site of the attack. Or that when they finally did tell them, they completely ignored the wishes of the family, and ultimately broke their pledge made to them only hours after they witnessed the return to the United States of Chris's remains.

Whose first instinct is to remove from a crime scene the diary of a man killed along with three other Americans serving our country, read it, transcribe it, email it around your newsroom for others to read, and only when their curiosity is fully satisfied thinks to call the family or notify the authorities?

When a junior person at CNN called, they didn't say, 'Hello, I know this is a terrible time, but I'm sure you want your son's diary, where do you want it sent?' They instead took the opportunity to ask the family if CNN could report on its contents. Contents known only to Chris Stevens, and those at CNN who had already invaded his privacy.

When the seniormost levels of CNN were finally reached, they needed to be convinced to do the right thing. But not before they took a second shot at convincing the family to let them report on the contents. A family member made it crystal clear directly to CNN that they wanted Chris's diary and would not make any other decisions until then. But that wasn't fast enough for CNN, so they helpfully offered to send the family the transcript they'd already made and passed around, to put a rush on it for their own purposes.

It was then made clear to them, for what must have been the fourth time in the same call, that they wanted to look at it privately, together as a family before making any decisions. Period. CNN finally heard their request enough times that they had to accept it, agreed to abide by the clear wishes of the Stevens family, and pledged not to use the diary or even allude to its existence until hearing back from the family.

But the Stevens family was never given that chance. I guess four days was as long as CNN could control themselves, so they just went ahead and used it. Entirely because they felt like it. Anderson Cooper didn't even bother to offer any other explanation as to why the network broke its promise to the family. And only did so after being contacted by a reporter asking about the diary and their convoluted sourcing.

How do they justify that? They have yet to even try to defend the indefensible. Not a proud episode in CNN's history. I'm sure there are many good people in the CNN newsroom equally appalled by this decision and wondering who above them authorized this course of action.

And CNN:

We think the public had a right to know what CNN had learned from multiple sources about the fears and warnings of a terror threat before the Benghazi attack which are now raising questions about why the State Department didn't do more to protect Ambassador Stevens and other U.S. personnel. Perhaps the real question here is why is the State Department now attacking the messenger.

In sum, an extraordinary disagreement between this country's foreign-policy shop and one of its more aggressive agents of foreign reportage. It all stems from the unique circumstances that unraveled on Sept. 11. The attacks on the consulate and annex were severe enough that

the State Department evacuated all U.S. personnel from the compound, leaving, in effect, an unsecured crime scene.

A full three days after the attack, CNN senior international correspondent Arwa Damon found Stevens' journal at the site of the Benghazi consulate, according to Reines.

Reines found out about the journal not long after a "return of remains" ceremony for Ambassador Stevens and the other victims at Andrews Air Force Base on Friday, Sept. 14. He received a call from State's protocol office alerting him that someone from CNN had called the Stevens family with the news that they'd recovered the ambassador's journal. To CNN's request to report on its contents, the family member responded in the negative.

The Stevens family wanted State's help, so Reines got in touch with a Stevens family member who confirmed the story for him. Now Reines wanted to chat with CNN, so he e-mailed the woman – CNN staffer Meredith Edwards – who'd reportedly contacted the Stevens family. No reply. Next on the list was Mark Whitaker, a ranking CNN news executive. Reines asked Whitaker whether the story he'd heard was accurate. Whitaker confirmed the gist of things but wasn't forthcoming, recalls Reines: "He was clearly sheepish and defensive from the beginning," says Reines. "He said, 'We're talking to our lawyers.' And I said, 'Mark, if you're talking to your lawyers, then you know you're on shaky ground.'"

That call was merely a prelude to more calls. Later that Friday, Reines chatted with Richard Griffiths, a key CNN editorial official who confirmed possession of the Stevens diary and explained that the late ambassador had procured it in Stockholm and had started writing in it on his last holiday. Reines discussed getting Griffiths on the line with the Stevens family to hash out the affair. Griffiths then told Reines how he'd pitch the family: That the journal provided a beautiful window into Stevens's character and dedication to his work and that they'd like permission to go ahead and use it on air.

In a subsequent conference call with the family and State officials, CNN's Griffiths "regurgitated" the script, Reines says. The family member listened and said no. Reines: "The family member thoughtfully and clearly told Griffiths that this was Chris's personal property and that they believed it was their personal property now, that they wanted it back and that they would not make any other decisions about it" until they reviewed it. There wasn't an insistence that they'd never bless its use, nor an indication that they would – just a preference that they jointly take a look at the contents before making any decisions.

Griffiths asked if the family would be okay with CNN at least saying that it had recovered the journal on the site of the attacks and had returned it to the family. Family member: No.

After that rejection, Griffiths told the Stevens family member that CNN had transcribed the diary and could pass it along in e-mail format. The family member declined to share an e-mail address, so the parties agreed that Griffiths would send the text to Reines, who would then forward it on to the Stevens family. Reines fulfilled his middleman role and says he has never glimpsed at the contents of the e-mail; nor has any State Department official had access to it, he says.

One clear takeaway from the conference call, says Reines, is CNN's standing on the question of family deference. It was absolute, he says – Griffiths stated that the network would honor the wishes of the family not to mention the journal on air. "There was no other caveat or asterisk," says Reines, whose account was corroborated by two other State Department sources who overheard the conference call.

The next step was arranging for Damon to pass the journal along to an Italian diplomat so that it could be delivered back to the family. "The first order of business was getting this out of CNN's hands, given their behavior and their insensitive interactions with the family," says Reines.

Things were quiet until the following week, when Cooper began what Reines called "breathless" coverage alleging that Stevens believed he was on an al-Qaeda hit list. That information, in Cooper's wording, was based on an anonymous source. "They constructed something that allowed them to satisfy their minimal journalistic standards to break their pledge to the family," says Reines.

The network differs, saying that it had "multiple sources" for that information. "Out of respect to the family, we have not quoted from or shown the journal," says a CNN statement.

CNN never apprised anyone in the Stevens family of its plans to mention the journal on air, says Reines, though a CNN source insists that the network tried many times to reach the family after the Sept. 14 conference call, "to no avail." In its statement, CNN gives this explanation for discussing the item on air:

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Odd bit of reasoning: Did CNN run some material because someone had apparently peddled false rumors to other news outlets? The Wall Street Journal, says Reines, was poking around at this story, asking CNN if it was true that it had come into possession of the Stevens journal. (The Wall Street Journal declined to comment on the matter).

"[CNN's] explanation for breaking their promise to the ambassador's family is that someone was leaking on them, rather than any kind of responsibility to their own standards," says Reines. "That is hardly a profile in courage." Aside from this non-consideration, says Reines, CNN's editorial formulations didn't change from the moment it spoke with the family to the time that it apprised its viewers of the journal. "The only thing that changed was their integrity," says Reines.

Any fair accounting of this dispute must start with an endorsement of CNN's industriousness. That a reporter from the network got to the scene and fetched an item that no one else had found speaks well of CNN and its commitment to international reporting. If CNN hadn't been on the ground, after all, the Stevens family may never have recovered the journal. That a news organization, and not a U.S. government entity, scored the journal speaks ill of the latter.

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Judging from the record, it's clear that the journal was instrumental in CNN's Wednesday night story about Ambassador Stevens and the al-Qaeda angle. That piece was unflattering to the interests of the State Department, which, after all, is entrusted with protecting its personnel overseas. Is that why State is so upset over this matter? Not at all, says Reines: "The reaction that they are getting [from State] is in response to their lying to the family," said Reines. As to the underlying story about how effectively State protected its people, Reines responds, "Questions about what happened are legitimate and are being asked and are being reviewed."

Now, on to how CNN handled the family of the late ambassador. The network appeared to be leading from behind when it asked for permission to use the journal in its broadcasts — an

HRC-9369

approach that suggests that the family had veto rights over the material. A more headstrong news organization would have politely told the family that it had recovered this personal effect, had reviewed it and was inclined to use the material. Had the family objected, CNN could have responded that it would take its wishes into consideration but would issue no guarantees. Says Reines: "If they had Mirandized the family in that phone call . . . I would say I disagree and I probably would appeal, but at the end of the day I would disparage them to my colleagues and would say the media sucks and here's another example, but I wouldn't make an argument to them on the law."

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Cc:  
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b7C Per FBI

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b6  
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HRC-9371



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Now, you are looking at the scene just outside the consulate in Benghazi as a pro-American crowd tried to rush Ambassador Stevens, who was wounded, still alive, to the hospital. Tonight, [CNN] obtains exclusive information about the climate that led up to all of this.

A source familiar with Ambassador Stevens' thinking said in the months before his death, he talked about being worried about what he called the never-ending security threats, specifically in Benghazi. The source [is] telling us that the ambassador specifically mentioned the rise in Islamic extremism, the growing al-Qaeda presence in Libya, and said that he was on an al-Qaeda hit list.

Exclusive, foreign, terrorism-related, breaking news – that's so CNN. The Web ate the story for breakfast and lunch the next day. On Friday night, Cooper returned to the topic of Stevens, this time with more compelling stuff:

The information for [Wednesday's] report, like all of CNN's reporting, was carefully vetted. Some of that information was found in a personal journal of Ambassador Stevens in his handwriting. We came upon the journal through our reporting and notified the family.

At their request, we returned that journal to them. We reported what we found newsworthy in the ambassador's writings. Our reporting followed up on what we found newsworthy, as I said, in the ambassador's writings.

Those are six very heavy sentences. And there's an extensive story behind them, as the Wall Street Journal and the Huffington Post reported on Saturday. The family of the late ambassador had requested that CNN not issue any reports based on the journal – or even reference its existence – before the family consented. CNN agreed to abide by the family's wishes, according to Philippe Reines, a State Department spokesman who listened in on a conference call between a CNN executive and a representative of the Stevens family.

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State and CNN have spent a good part of the weekend trading nasty words on the spat. The length of this State Department tract alone makes clear just how peeved its leadership is:

Given the truth of how this was handled, CNN patting themselves on the back is disgusting.

What they're not owning up to is reading and transcribing Chris's diary well before bothering to tell the family or anyone else that they took it from the site of the attack. Or that when they finally did tell them, they completely ignored the wishes of the family, and ultimately broke their pledge made to them only hours after they witnessed the return to the United States of Chris's remains.

Whose first instinct is to remove from a crime scene the diary of a man killed along with three other Americans serving our country, read it, transcribe it, email it around your newsroom for others to read, and only when their curiosity is fully satisfied thinks to call the family or notify the authorities?

When a junior person at CNN called, they didn't say, 'Hello, I know this is a terrible time, but I'm sure you want your son's diary, where do you want it sent?' They instead took the opportunity to ask the family if CNN could report on its contents. Contents known only to Chris Stevens, and those at CNN who had already invaded his privacy.

When the seniormost levels of CNN were finally reached, they needed to be convinced to do the right thing. But not before they took a second shot at convincing the family to let them report on the contents. A family member made it crystal clear directly to CNN that they wanted Chris's diary and would not make any other decisions until then. But that wasn't fast enough for CNN, so they helpfully offered to send the family the transcript they'd already made and passed around, to put a rush on it for their own purposes.

It was then made clear to them, for what must have been the fourth time in the same call, that they wanted to look at it privately, together as a family before making any decisions. Period. CNN finally heard their request enough times that they had to accept it, agreed to abide by the clear wishes of the Stevens family, and pledged not to use the diary or even allude to its existence until hearing back from the family.

But the Stevens family was never given that chance. I guess four days was as long as CNN could control themselves, so they just went ahead and used it. Entirely because they felt like it. Anderson Cooper didn't even bother to offer any other explanation as to why the network broke its promise to the family. And only did so after being contacted by a reporter asking about the diary and their convoluted sourcing.

How do they justify that? They have yet to even try to defend the indefensible. Not a proud episode in CNN's history. I'm sure there are many good people in the CNN newsroom equally appalled by this decision and wondering who above them authorized this course of action.

And CNN:

We think the public had a right to know what CNN had learned from multiple sources about the fears and warnings of a terror threat before the Benghazi attack which are now raising questions about why the State Department didn't do more to protect Ambassador Stevens and other U.S. personnel. Perhaps the real question here is why is the State Department now attacking the messenger.

In sum, an extraordinary disagreement between this country's foreign-policy shop and one of its more aggressive agents of foreign reportage. It all stems from the unique circumstances that unraveled on Sept. 11. The attacks on the consulate and annex were severe enough that

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the State Department evacuated all U.S. personnel from the compound, leaving, in effect, an unsecured crime scene.

A full three days after the attack, CNN senior international correspondent Arwa Damon found Stevens' journal at the site of the Benghazi consulate, according to Reines.

Reines found out about the journal not long after a "return of remains" ceremony for Ambassador Stevens and the other victims at Andrews Air Force Base on Friday, Sept. 14. He received a call from State's protocol office alerting him that someone from CNN had called the Stevens family with the news that they'd recovered the ambassador's journal. To CNN's request to report on its contents, the family member responded in the negative.

The Stevens family wanted State's help, so Reines got in touch with a Stevens family member who confirmed the story for him. Now Reines wanted to chat with CNN, so he e-mailed the woman – CNN staffer Meredith Edwards – who'd reportedly contacted the Stevens family. No reply. Next on the list was Mark Whitaker, a ranking CNN news executive. Reines asked Whitaker whether the story he'd heard was accurate. Whitaker confirmed the gist of things but wasn't forthcoming, recalls Reines: "He was clearly sheepish and defensive from the beginning," says Reines. "He said, 'We're talking to our lawyers.' And I said, 'Mark, if you're talking to your lawyers, then you know you're on shaky ground.'"

That call was merely a prelude to more calls. Later that Friday, Reines chatted with Richard Griffiths, a key CNN editorial official who confirmed possession of the Stevens diary and explained that the late ambassador had procured it in Stockholm and had started writing in it on his last holiday. Reines discussed getting Griffiths on the line with the Stevens family to hash out the affair. Griffiths then told Reines how he'd pitch the family: That the journal provided a beautiful window into Stevens's character and dedication to his work and that they'd like permission to go ahead and use it on air.

In a subsequent conference call with the family and State officials, CNN's Griffiths "regurgitated" the script, Reines says. The family member listened and said no. Reines: "The family member thoughtfully and clearly told Griffiths that this was Chris's personal property and that they believed it was their personal property now, that they wanted it back and that they would not make any other decisions about it" until they reviewed it. There wasn't an insistence that they'd never bless its use, nor an indication that they would – just a preference that they jointly take a look at the contents before making any decisions.

Griffiths asked if the family would be okay with CNN at least saying that it had recovered the journal on the site of the attacks and had returned it to the family. Family member: No.

After that rejection, Griffiths told the Stevens family member that CNN had transcribed the diary and could pass it along in e-mail format. The family member declined to share an e-mail address, so the parties agreed that Griffiths would send the text to Reines, who would then forward it on to the Stevens family. Reines fulfilled his middleman role and says he has never glimpsed at the contents of the e-mail; nor has any State Department official had access to it, he says.

One clear takeaway from the conference call, says Reines, is CNN's standing on the question of family deference. It was absolute, he says – Griffiths stated that the network would honor the wishes of the family not to mention the journal on air. "There was no other caveat or asterisk," says Reines, whose account was corroborated by two other State Department sources who overheard the conference call.

The next step was arranging for Damon to pass the journal along to an Italian diplomat so that it could be delivered back to the family. "The first order of business was getting this out of CNN's hands, given their behavior and their insensitive interactions with the family," says Reines.

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Things were quiet until the following week, when Cooper began what Reines called "breathless" coverage alleging that Stevens believed he was on an al-Qaeda hit list. That information, in Cooper's wording, was based on an anonymous source. "They constructed something that allowed them to satisfy their minimal journalistic standards to break their pledge to the family," says Reines.

The network differs, saying that it had "multiple sources" for that information. "Out of respect to the family, we have not quoted from or shown the journal," says a CNN statement.

CNN never apprised anyone in the Stevens family of its plans to mention the journal on air, says Reines, though a CNN source insists that the network tried many times to reach the family after the Sept. 14 conference call, "to no avail." In its statement, CNN gives this explanation for discussing the item on air:

The reason CNN ultimately reported Friday on the existence of the journal was because leaks to media organizations incorrectly suggested CNN had not quickly returned the journal, which we did.

Odd bit of reasoning: Did CNN run some material because someone had apparently peddled false rumors to other news outlets? The Wall Street Journal, says Reines, was poking around at this story, asking CNN if it was true that it had come into possession of the Stevens journal. (The Wall Street Journal declined to comment on the matter).

"[CNN's] explanation for breaking their promise to the ambassador's family is that someone was leaking on them, rather than any kind of responsibility to their own standards," says Reines. "That is hardly a profile in courage." Aside from this non-consideration, says Reines, CNN's editorial formulations didn't change from the moment it spoke with the family to the time that it apprised its viewers of the journal. "The only thing that changed was their integrity," says Reines.

Any fair accounting of this dispute must start with an endorsement of CNN's industriousness. That a reporter from the network got to the scene and fetched an item that no one else had found speaks well of CNN and its commitment to international reporting. If CNN hadn't been on the ground, after all, the Stevens family may never have recovered the journal. That a news organization, and not a U.S. government entity, scored the journal speaks ill of the latter.

From there, the story gets more complicated. Journals enjoy an exalted cone of privacy among civilized people: Hands off.

That cone shatters, of course, when we're talking about the writings of an ambassador who's been killed in a high-profile attack in a volatile foreign country. Reflections and information in the journal may be of immediate public interest, an imperative that steamrolls any considerations about privacy. Not only was CNN right to read and copy the journal, but also it was obligated by its newsgathering mission to do so.

Judging from the record, it's clear that the journal was instrumental in CNN's Wednesday night story about Ambassador Stevens and the al-Qaeda angle. That piece was unflattering to the interests of the State Department, which, after all, is entrusted with protecting its personnel overseas. Is that why State is so upset over this matter? Not at all, says Reines: "The reaction that they are getting [from State] is in response to their lying to the family," said Reines. As to the underlying story about how effectively State protected its people, Reines responds, "Questions about what happened are legitimate and are being asked and are being reviewed."

Now, on to how CNN handled the family of the late ambassador. The network appeared to be leading from behind when it asked for permission to use the journal in its broadcasts - an

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approach that suggests that the family had veto rights over the material. A more headstrong news organization would have politely told the family that it had recovered this personal effect, had reviewed it and was inclined to use the material. Had the family objected, CNN could have responded that it would take its wishes into consideration but would issue no guarantees. Says Reines: "If they had Mirandized the family in that phone call ... I would say I disagree and I probably would appeal, but at the end of the day I would disparage them to my colleagues and would say the media sucks and here's another example, but I wouldn't make an argument to them on the law."

###

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From: Joanna BIDDLE [redacted]  
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2012 11:43 AM  
To: [redacted]  
Cc: Nicolas REVISE  
Subject: RE: CNN's Explanation(s)

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Ok thanks. As I said our editors in Paris have pushed to do a short story, so we used some of the comments you sent yesterday afternoon even though as you say it is "stale"

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted]  
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2012 11:41 AM  
To: Joanna BIDDLE  
Cc: Nicolas REVISE  
Subject: Re: CNN's Explanation(s)

b6  
b7C

I will check on your first question

Off the record: on your second question, I am waiting to see what CNN does today before commenting further, so using what I wrote yesterday or the day before is stale. If they change their tune today, I will react to that.

----- Original Message -----

From: Joanna BIDDLE [mailto:[redacted]]  
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2012 11:21 AM  
To: [redacted]  
Cc: Nicolas REVISE [redacted]  
Subject: RE: CNN's Explanation(s)

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Hi [redacted]

Apologies if I wasn't clear. CNN say they found the journal in the ruins of the compound several days after the attack. I realize that all the American staff had been evacuated, but was there any liaison with Libyan security partners to check whether any documents had been left behind? I realize the compound was temporary too.

Further that, could you comment please on CNN's use of the diary? All shall we just use what you sent yesterday to everyone, thanks, Jo

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted] [mailto:reinesp@state.gov]  
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2012 11:14 AM  
To: Joanna BIDDLE  
Cc: Nicolas REVISE  
Subject: Re: CNN's Explanation(s)

b6  
b7C

Hi Joanna

Confused by your question - swept when exactly and by who? I think you know from covering us and the daily briefings that the compound was under assault, they had to fight their way out

- while the structure was still fully ablaze - and then to the airport when all USG personnel were evacuated to Tripoli.

Aside from that, we've also made clear that the compound in Benghazi was temporary and therefore didn't have any permanent classified processing.

----- Original Message -----

From: Joanna BIDDLE [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2012 09:05 AM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: Nicolas REVISE [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: CNN's Explanation(s)

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Good morning [REDACTED]

Set up at CGI, for the Secretary's remarks this morning. I'm afraid our editors want us to write something on CNN's release of ambassador Stevens's diary, which so far we hadn't written about. Could you please let us have either your original statement, or a new one with a reaction to CNN's allegations about "shooting the messenger." Further to that there is an issue about how they were able to get hold of it diary, when surely the Benghazi mission should have been carefully swept in case any classified documents had survived the fire. What are your comments on that issue?

Thanks so much, Jo

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Sunday, September 23, 2012 4:00 PM  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: CNN's Explanation(s)

b6  
b7C

All -

Excuse the intrusion on your Sunday, but I've heard from more than half of you or the media outlets you represent asking for reaction to CNN's atrocious behavior in the handling of Ambassador Stevens's diary, as originally reported by The Wall Street Journal, and expanded on by The Washington Post just a little while ago.

I continue to hear from many of you still trying to comprehend why CNN did what they did, so I just want to bring everyone up to speed at once.

I also know that to many of you, this is not simply a 'story' as you knew or worked with Chris, and find this as distasteful as everyone here at State does.

I'm more than happy to send my existing statement. But I want to wait in case CNN issues another excuse of the day in order to address it. I'm struggling to keep up with them since they are clearly having a hard time settling on a single credible explanation that gets them off the hook for lying to the family. They keep changing their tune, issuing inadequate, confusing, and conflicting explanations, offering four in as many days, some on air, some by paper. Even as I type I'm hearing they're trying on a new one for size, peddling that the family didn't really understand what CNN said to them. Never mind that there were five people on the call that CNN is claiming four people misunderstood.

So once they finally get their latest story straight and stick to it, I'll follow up with you all. Not sure that will be anytime soon since it's clear they don't know how to explain, let

alone justify their actions. And I'm certainly not going to hold my breath until someone is held accountable.

In the meantime, here is the Post story I mentioned above, you might find it helpful:

CNN vs. the State Department: A Long Story By Erik Wemple The Washington Post Posted at 02:37 PM ET, 09/23/2012

CNN's Anderson Cooper on Wednesday night brought his viewers some big news about the fatal Sept. 11 attacks against the U.S. consulate and nearby annex in Benghazi, Libya. All manner of details on the provenance and circumstances of the assaults that claimed the lives of U.S. Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens and three others have been unclear or in dispute. So the information that CNN divulged found an eager audience. Here's Cooper:

Now, you are looking at the scene just outside the consulate in Benghazi as a pro-American crowd tried to rush Ambassador Stevens, who was wounded, still alive, to the hospital. Tonight, [CNN] obtains exclusive information about the climate that led up to all of this.

A source familiar with Ambassador Stevens' thinking said in the months before his death, he talked about being worried about what he called the never-ending security threats, specifically in Benghazi. The source [is] telling us that the ambassador specifically mentioned the rise in Islamic extremism, the growing al-Qaeda presence in Libya, and said that he was on an al-Qaeda hit list.

Exclusive, foreign, terrorism-related, breaking news – that's so CNN. The Web ate the story for breakfast and lunch the next day. On Friday night, Cooper returned to the topic of Stevens, this time with more compelling stuff:

The information for [Wednesday's] report, like all of CNN's reporting, was carefully vetted. Some of that information was found in a personal journal of Ambassador Stevens in his handwriting. We came upon the journal through our reporting and notified the family.

At their request, we returned that journal to them. We reported what we found newsworthy in the ambassador's writings. Our reporting followed up on what we found newsworthy, as I said, in the ambassador's writings.

Those are six very heavy sentences. And there's an extensive story behind them, as the Wall Street Journal and the Huffington Post reported on Saturday. The family of the late ambassador had requested that CNN not issue any reports based on the journal – or even reference its existence – before the family consented. CNN agreed to abide by the family's wishes, according to Philippe Reines, a State Department spokesman who listened in on a conference call between a CNN executive and a representative of the Stevens family.

State and CNN have spent a good part of the weekend trading nasty words on the spat. The length of this State Department tract alone makes clear just how peeved its leadership is:

Given the truth of how this was handled, CNN patting themselves on the back is disgusting.

What they're not owning up to is reading and transcribing Chris's diary well before bothering to tell the family or anyone else that they took it from the site of the attack. Or that when they finally did tell them, they completely ignored the wishes of the family, and ultimately broke their pledge made to them only hours after they witnessed the return to the United States of Chris's remains.

Whose first instinct is to remove from a crime scene the diary of a man killed along with three other Americans serving our country, read it, transcribe it, email it around your

HRC-9379



newsroom for others to read, and only when their curiosity is fully satisfied thinks to call the family or notify the authorities?

When a junior person at CNN called, they didn't say, 'Hello, I know this is a terrible time, but I'm sure you want your son's diary, where do you want it sent?' They instead took the opportunity to ask the family if CNN could report on its contents. Contents known only to Chris Stevens, and those at CNN who had already invaded his privacy.

When the seniormost levels of CNN were finally reached, they needed to be convinced to do the right thing. But not before they took a second shot at convincing the family to let them report on the contents. A family member made it crystal clear directly to CNN that they wanted Chris's diary and would not make any other decisions until then. But that wasn't fast enough for CNN, so they helpfully offered to send the family the transcript they'd already made and passed around, to put a rush on it for their own purposes.

It was then made clear to them, for what must have been the fourth time in the same call, that they wanted to look at it privately, together as a family before making any decisions. Period. CNN finally heard their request enough times that they had to accept it, agreed to abide by the clear wishes of the Stevens family, and pledged not to use the diary or even allude to its existence until hearing back from the family.

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How do they justify that? They have yet to even try to defend the indefensible. Not a proud episode in CNN's history. I'm sure there are many good people in the CNN newsroom equally appalled by this decision and wondering who above them authorized this course of action.

And CNN:

We think the public had a right to know what CNN had learned from multiple sources about the fears and warnings of a terror threat before the Benghazi attack which are now raising questions about why the State Department didn't do more to protect Ambassador Stevens and other U.S. personnel. Perhaps the real question here is why is the State Department now attacking the messenger.

In sum, an extraordinary disagreement between this country's foreign-policy shop and one of its more aggressive agents of foreign reportage. It all stems from the unique circumstances that unraveled on Sept. 11. The attacks on the consulate and annex were severe enough that the State Department evacuated all U.S. personnel from the compound, leaving, in effect, an unsecured crime scene.

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The Stevens family wanted State's help, so Reines got in touch with a Stevens family member who confirmed the story for him. Now Reines wanted to chat with CNN, so he e-mailed the woman - CNN staffer Meredith Edwards - who'd reportedly contacted the Stevens family. No reply.

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One clear takeaway from the conference call, says Reines, is CNN's standing on the question of family deference. It was absolute, he says - Griffiths stated that the network would honor the wishes of the family not to mention the journal on air. "There was no other caveat or asterisk," says Reines, whose account was corroborated by two other State Department sources who overheard the conference call.

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"[CNN's] explanation for breaking their promise to the ambassador's family is that someone was leaking on them, rather than any kind of responsibility to their own standards," says Reines. "That is hardly a profile in courage." Aside from this non-consideration, says Reines, CNN's editorial formulations didn't change from the moment it spoke with the family to the time that it apprised its viewers of the journal. "The only thing that changed was their integrity," says Reines.

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Now, on to how CNN handled the family of the late ambassador. The network appeared to be leading from behind when it asked for permission to use the journal in its broadcasts — an approach that suggests that the family had veto rights over the material. A more headstrong news organization would have politely told the family that it had recovered this personal effect, had reviewed it and was inclined to use the material. Had the family objected, CNN could have responded that it would take its wishes into consideration but would issue no guarantees. Says Reines: "If they had Mirandized the family in that phone call ... I would say I disagree and I probably would appeal, but at the end of the day I would disparage them to my colleagues and would say the media sucks and here's another example, but I wouldn't make an argument to them on the law."

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For more information on Agence France-Presse, please visit our web site at <http://www.afp.com>

**From:** Bennett, Charles [redacted]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 10:40 AM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: CNN Statement

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Story ran today

[http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/diplo\\_feared\\_hit\\_by\\_gaeda\\_Q1rVp4tiPB10R2Q700m24H](http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/diplo_feared_hit_by_gaeda_Q1rVp4tiPB10R2Q700m24H)

regards,

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 23, 2012 4:28 PM  
**To:** Bennett, Charles  
**Subject:** Re: CNN Statement

b6  
b7C

A couple of things:

I'm not certain what you're basing your statement of the security situation being improved. Pretty sure the Post doesn't have anyone on the ground to say that with their own reporting. When I watch networks that do have people on the ground, as recently as yesterday they were reporting that there was continued violence. It clearly remains dangerous.

The FBI has sent a team to Libya, and they will be in Benghazi as the security situation allows

This assault claimed four American lives. It was ferocious with a lethality we have not had brought to bear against our diplomatic posts. The assault was sustained, with the structure on the compound ablaze. It was similar in ferocity to what our military installations sometimes face, and even they're significant defenses are breached. So the number one priority was to prevent any further loss of life. The US personnel on the ground had to fight their way out and to the airport to be evacuated to Tripoli.

**From:** Bennett, Charles [mailto:[redacted]]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 23, 2012 04:12 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: CNN Statement

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Did anyone ever address what the diary was doing out there so long? If not, does State have a statement on why it was left unsecured for so long, even after the security situation improved?

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 23, 2012 2:36 PM  
**To:** Bennett, Charles  
**Subject:** Re: CNN Statement

b6  
b7C

Looks right. But I thought it was 9/17 not 9/14

HRC-9384

**From:** Bennett, Charles [mailto: ]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 23, 2012 02:32 PM  
**To:** [ ]  
**Subject:** RE: CNN Statement

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

OK.  
I this is it. Right?

A spokesman for the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the nation's top intelligence officials, said "actionable intelligence would have meant that we either saw or heard something, through intelligence collection, that told us that a specific act was being planned or was imminent. As I have said, we are not aware of any actionable intelligence related to the attack in Benghazi."

Read more: <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2012/09/14/diplomatic-western-posts-targeted-repeatedly-in-benghazi-in-run-up-to-deadly/#ixzz27JqmPl1o>

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2012/09/14/diplomatic-western-posts-targeted-repeatedly-in-benghazi-in-run-up-to-deadly/>

**From:** [ ]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 23, 2012 2:28 PM  
**To:** Bennett, Charles  
**Subject:** Re: CNN Statement

b6  
b7C

Let me do this on background because I can't speak for other agencies - but last week, maybe Monday, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence issued a statement that there was nothing like that. I'm paraphrasing. Let me know if you can't find it and I'll track it down.

**From:** Bennett, Charles [mailto: ]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 23, 2012 02:20 PM  
**To:** [ ]  
**Subject:** RE: CNN Statement

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Understood. Let me phrase the question this way: Did Ambassador Stevens ever express concerns about the security situation in Benghazi or being part of some kind hit list?

**From:** [ ]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 23, 2012 2:19 PM  
**To:** Bennett, Charles  
**Subject:** Re: CNN Statement

b6  
b7C

To this moment we have no idea what's in the diary

**From:** Bennett, Charles [mailto: ]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 23, 2012 02:18 PM  
**To:** [ ]

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

HRC-9385

**Subject:** RE: CNN Statement

Received. Thanks.

What about the contents of the diary? Did Stevens ever express his worries about the security situation in Benghazi or being include on a hit list to other State Dept officials?

Regards,

Chuck Bennett  
Reporter  
New York Post

b6 Per DOS

---

**From** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 23, 2012 2:00 PM  
**To:** Bennett, Charles  
**Subject:** Re: CNN Statement

b6  
b7C

Here you go - everything that follows is ON the record and attributable to me:

Given the truth of how this was handled, CNN patting themselves on the back is disgusting.

What they're not owning up to is reading and transcribing Chris's diary well before bothering to tell the family or anyone else that they took it from the site of the attack. Or that when they finally did inform them, they completely ignored the wishes of the family, and ultimately broke their pledge, made to the Stevens family only hours after they witnessed the return to the United States of Chris's remains.

Whose first instinct is to remove from a crime scene the diary of a man killed along with three other Americans serving our country, read it, transcribe it, email it around your newsroom for others to read, and only when their curiosity is fully satisfied thinks to call the family or notify the authorities?

Then, someone who seems to be a junior blogger at CNN, eventually called the Stevens family. Setting aside the question of why CNN didn't assign that obviously delicate call to someone more appropriate, that person didn't say, 'Hello, I know this is a terrible time, I'm sorry for your loss. But I'm sure you want your son's diary, where do you want it sent?' They instead took the opportunity to ask the family if CNN could report on its contents. Contents known only to Chris Stevens, and those at CNN who had already invaded his privacy.

They were told no.

At this point the Stevens family reached out to us to enlist our help with CNN.

When the seniormost levels of CNN were finally reached, they needed to be convinced to do the right thing. But not before they took another shot at convincing the family to let them report on the contents. A family member made it crystal clear directly to CNN that they wanted Chris's diary and would not make any other decisions until then. But that wasn't fast enough for CNN, so they graciously offered to send the family the transcript they'd already made and passed around internally, to put a rush on the family for their own purposes.

CNN then pressed for permission to at least take credit on-air for recovering the diary.

They were told no.

HRC-9386

It was then made clear to CNN yet again that they wanted to look at it privately, together as a family before making any decisions. Period. CNN finally accepted what they were hearing, agreed to abide by the clear wishes of the Stevens family, and pledged not to use the diary or even allude to its existence until hearing back from the family to grant their permission.

But the Stevens family was never given that chance. It seems that four days is as long as CNN can control themselves, so they just went ahead and used it. Entirely because they felt like it. Anderson Cooper didn't even bother to offer any explanation as to why the network broke its promise to the family. And he only made that statement after CNN was contacted by reporters asking CNN to explain their convoluted sourcing.

CNN's actions and Cooper's admission, and subsequent statements by CNN raise serious questions that they won't answer. Because they can't without indicting their own behavior. But there is one question more than any other that they need to answer: If they weren't going to respect the family's wishes, why did CNN even bother to ask them what they wanted to happen with the diary? CNN had already read every word of the diary before speaking with the family. They knew exactly what it contained. If they had assessed based on what they read that they had a responsibility to the public to report on the contents of the diary, why didn't they just say that right away, explain it to the family, and then proceed as they deemed appropriate and necessary? Nothing in the diary changed over the days that followed. From the outset, CNN had every piece of information they needed to make an editorial judgment. So why the ruse?

The answer is simple: the only thing that changed as the days went on was CNN's integrity.

They should never have made that promise if they felt compelled to report on the contents of the diary. The pride they are now showing in their journalistic responsibilities should have been on display from the moment they picked the diary up off the ground.

They could have spared themselves the trouble, spared their own viewers from being misled about how they came to their reporting, and more important than anything else, spared the family from the emotional whiplash CNN created.

They have yet to even try to defend the indefensible. Not a proud episode in CNN's history. I'm sure there are many good people in the CNN newsroom equally appalled by what happened and are now wondering who above them authorized this despicable course of action.

\*\*\*

[Here is the above referenced statement Anderson Cooper made on air, 8:18pm, Friday 9/21/12: "On Wednesday we reported that a source familiar with ambassador Stevens' thinking said in the months before his death, ambassador Stevens talked about being worried about what he called the never-ending security threats in Benghazi. We also reported that the ambassador specifically mentioned the rise in Islamic extremism, the growing al Qaeda presence in Libya and said he was on an al Qaeda hit list. The information for that report like all of CNN's reporting was carefully vetted. Some of that information was found in a personal journal of ambassador Stevens in his handwriting. We came upon the journal through our reporting and notified the family. At their request, we returned that journal to them. We reported what we found newsworthy in the ambassador's writings. A reporter followed up on what we found newsworthy in the ambassador's writings."]

From: Bennett, Charles [mailto: ]  
Sent: Sunday, September 23, 2012 12:53 PM  
To: [ ]

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

HRC-9387



**Subject:** CNN Statement

Hi [redacted] Can you please send me the statement RE CNN and the late Ambassador Steven's diary.  
Thanks,

b6  
b7C

Chuck Bennett  
Reporter  
New York Post



b6 Per DOS

HRC-9388

From: Joanna BIDDLE [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2012 9:03 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Anderson's reply

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Evening [REDACTED]

So you earlier said you wanted to see if there was a response from CNN today before sending an updated response. Anderson Cooper has just made this statement on 360 and then had a discussion with Fran Townsend and an ex-CIA person about the security implications of a reporter being able to find the diary. And whether an FBI crime scene has been compromised by having reporters walking around it.

Could you respond to Cooper's assertions that CNN was raising legitimate questions about the security implications for the United States? Did you manage to get a response to my earlier question on whether the Libyan security forces were asked to secure the ruins of the compound? And do you wish to make any comment on the now very public email stream between [REDACTED] buzzfeed correspondent Michael Hastings? Thanks, Jo

b6  
b7C

note-Anderson

NEW YORK, 24/09/2012 - 2026 -

No-one likes to be called disgusting, particularly by a spokesperson of the United States State department. We do invite you and them to hold us to the same standards that we try every night to hold ourselves.

Out of respect for his family we have not quoted from his journal, not once.

It was not emailed around the newsroom as the US State Department spokesman said it was. And remember CNN discovered the journal three days after the assault. Arwa Darmon, one of the best war correspondents I've ever worked with, who has reported for years at great personal risk to herself, discovered the journal. Why was the journal significant? At the time that CNN the Obama administration was still downplaying the possibility that this was a deliberate terrorist attack.

Even at the early stage, many in the foreign policy global security community doubted that explanation. The journal certainly raises questions about that. Neither 360 nor CNN rushed to air with details from the journal. We didn't publicly announce we had found it, and within hours of finding it we informed the family of ambassador Stevens.

CNN did not publicly announce we had found it out of respect for the family. Instead as CNN does with every story, our correspondents and our producer sought as many sources as we could find. And in fact we found three other sources.

Throughout all of this we have tried to minimize the anguish the ambassador's family is obviously feeling balanced against the journalistic duty to inform.

Ambassador Stevens held a very prominent and public position, and as a news organization it's our job to inform you of information that's important.

This was not broadcasting gossip from the pages of someone's diary, this was not reporting salacious details of someone's private life. This was reporting information that could impact the national security of the United States, and the safety of US installations in other countries.

We've just learned for instance that the US mission in Benghazi was operating under a security waiver at the time of the attack. That means that typical security standards did not apply, mainly because the compound was temporary in nature. We don't yet know who made that decision, or who was in on it.

But we do think that people need to know where the process broke down, if it broke down. We think you need to know what happened to US personnel in Benghazi.

end

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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2012 9:42 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Re. Anderson's reply

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Hi Jo

Lots to address:

As to Anderson Cooper, the most important lesson I've learned this weekend is to stop watching TV.

But to your larger question, I've said many things over the last few days about CNN. Much of it not very nice. But not one word was questioning anyone's right to ask questions. There are certainly questions to be answered. We've said that many times. And there's nobody who wants those answers more than the everyone at the State Department who worked with, knew, loved Chris, and are grieving over his death, and for the three Americans killed that night.

So the State Department is the first to ask those important questions, led by Tom Pickering. The FBI is obviously investigating what happened, as are others parts of the USG. And the media plays a part in looking for answers too. Nobody's taking issue with that. What we, I, took issue with, was simple: the network asked the family for permission to report what CNN read in the diary, and the family said no. CNN should not have asked a question they didn't want the answer to. And should not have made a promise they could not keep. If they believed the contents compelled them to report on them, then they should have simply explained that to the family that very first day. Not see their consent. AFP would not have handled the situation this way. You either would have made an immediate editorial judgment that the contents required being made public, or you would have decided that you could only do so if the family agreed. If AFP chose the latter, you wouldn't 7 days later shift to the former. Makes no sense. The content didn't change from the moment they first read the diary on 9/14 until 9/19 when they started to report on it.

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I was confused so I asked the family if they had said OK to CNN, and they said they hadn't had any contact with CNN since the original conversation on 9/14.

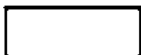
So given the promise made to the family on the 14th, what they did on the 21st was just wrong. Plain old wrong.

One can debate journalistic ethics and responsibilities and balancing privacy with the obligations to the public. But that's not what this was. This was CNN promising something to a family, and then they broke that promise. That was the point in time and the reason for what's happened over the last 48 hours.

On the compound, yes - after the attack we asked the Libyans to secure the site since there were no USG personnel remaining in Benghazi to do so. It is not entirely clear if that happened or when. Obviously it was not secured when CNN went to the site of the attack.


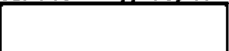

As for my email exchange, it speaks for itself.

Hope this all helps and hope you're having fun UNGAing.




b6  
b7C


---

**From:** Joanna BIDDLE [mailto:  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 09:02 PM  
**To:**   
**Cc:**   
**Subject:** Anderson's reply

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Evening 

So you earlier said you wanted to see if there was a response from CNN today before sending an updated response. Anderson Cooper has just made this statement on 360 and then had a discussion with Fran Townsend and an ex-CIA person about the security implications of a reporter being able to find the diary. And whether an FBI crime scene has been compromised by having reporters walking around it.

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b6  
b7C

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But we do think that people need to know where the process broke down, if it broke down. We think you need to know what happened to US personnel in Benghazi.

end

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**From:** Joanna BIDDLE [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 9:49 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Anderson's reply

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Many thanks [REDACTED] I'll use this very fully. Get some sleep if possible, Jo

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 9:42 PM  
**To:** Joanna BIDDLE  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Anderson's reply

b6  
b7C

Hi Jo

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[redacted]

b6  
b7C

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**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 09:02 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** Anderson's reply

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Evening [redacted]

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HRC-9395



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**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 9:52 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: Anderson's reply

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

I'm not a media watcher, but on background I'd note that Cooper's addressing the situation was only the 2nd time today, the first being Mark Whitaker at 8am. In between, CNN covered the Benghazi attack at least once every hour, but no mention of the diary. My point is that I believe that given the events of the weekend, they took a more sober approach to this issue.

---

**From:** Joanna BIDDLE [mailto:[redacted]]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 09:48 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Anderson's reply

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Many thanks [redacted] I'll use this very fully. Get some sleep if possible, Jo

---

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**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 9:42 PM  
**To:** Joanna BIDDLE  
**Cc:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: Anderson's reply

b6  
b7C

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As for my email exchange, it speaks for itself.

Hope this all helps and hope you're having fun UNGAing.

[redacted]

b6  
b7C

---

**From:** Joanna BIDDLE [mailto:[redacted]]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 09:02 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** Anderson's reply

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Evening [redacted]

So you earlier said you wanted to see if there was a response from CNN today before sending an updated response. Anderson Cooper has just made this statement on 360 and then had a discussion with Fran Townsend and an ex-CIA person about the security implications of a reporter being able to find the diary. And whether an FBI crime scene has been compromised by having reporters walking around it.

Could you respond to Cooper's assertions that CNN was raising legitimate questions about the security implications for the United States? Did you manage to get a response to my earlier question on whether the Libyan security forces were asked to secure the ruins of the compound? And do you wish to make any comment on the now very public email stream between [redacted] buzzfeed correspondent Michael Hastings? Thanks, Jo

b6  
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note-Anderson

NEW YORK, 24/09/2012 - 2026 -

No-one likes to be called disgusting, particularly by a spokesperson of the United States State department. We do invite you and them to hold us to the same standards that we try every night to hold ourselves.

HRC-9398

Out of respect for his family we have not quoted from his journal, not once.

It was not emailed around the newsroom as the US State Department spokesman said it was. And remember CNN discovered the journal three days after the assault. Arwa Darmon, one of the best war correspondents I've ever worked with, who has reported for years at great personal risk to herself, discovered the journal. Why was the journal significant? At the time that CNN the Obama administration was still downplaying the possibility that this was a deliberate terrorist attack.

Even at the early stage, many in the foreign policy global security community doubted that explanation. The journal certainly raises questions about that. Neither 360 nor CNN rushed to air with details from the journal. We didn't publicly announce we had found it, and within hours of finding it we informed the family of ambassador Stevens.

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Throughout all of this we have tried to minimize the anguish the ambassador's family is obviously feeling balanced against the journalistic duty to inform.

Ambassador Stevens held a very prominent and public position, and as a news organization it's our job to inform you of information that's important.

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We've just learned for instance that the US mission in Benghazi was operating under a security waiver at the time of the attack. That means that typical security standards did not apply, mainly because the compound was temporary in nature. We don't yet know who made that decision, or who was in on it.

But we do think that people need to know where the process broke down, if it broke down. We think you need to know what happened to US personnel in Benghazi.

end

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**From:** Joanna BIDDLE [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 10:14 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Anderson's reply

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

OK back on SUMW for your subbing

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 9:42 PM  
**To:** Joanna BIDDLE  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Anderson's reply

b6  
b7C

Hi Jo

Lots to address:

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But to your larger question, I've said many things over the last few days about CNN. Much of it not very nice. But not one word was questioning anyone's right to ask questions. There are certainly questions to be answered. We've said that many times. And there's nobody who wants those answers more than the everyone at the State Department who worked with, knew, loved Chris, and are grieving over his death, and for the three Americans killed that night.

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HRC-9400

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[redacted]

b6  
b7C

---

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**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 09:02 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** Anderson's reply

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Evening [redacted]

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b6  
b7C

note-Anderson

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HRC-9401

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 10:22 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Anderson's reply

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

**From:** Joanna BIDDLE [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 10:14 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Anderson's reply

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

OK back on SUMW for your subbing

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 9:42 PM  
**To:** Joanna BIDDLE  
**Cc:** Nuland, Victoria J  
**Subject:** Re: Anderson's reply

b6  
b7C

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Lots to address:

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HRC-9403



I was confused so I asked the family if they had said OK to CNN, and they said they hadn't had any contact with CNN since the original conversation on 9/14.

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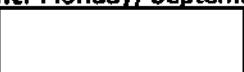

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b6  
b7C

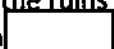
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**From:** Joanna BIDDLE [mailto:  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 09:02 PM  
**To:**   
**Cc:**   
**Subject:** Anderson's reply

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Evening 

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b6  
b7C

note-Anderson

NEW YORK, 24/09/2012 - 2026 -

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HRC-9404

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end

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**From:** Joanna BIDDLE [redacted]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 10:24 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Anderson's reply

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

My apologies internal note for editors !

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**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 10:22 PM  
**To:** Joanna BIDDLE  
**Subject:** Re: Anderson's reply

b6  
b7C

?

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**From:** Joanna BIDDLE [mailto:[redacted]]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 10:14 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Anderson's reply

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

OK back on SUMW for your subbing

---

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 9:42 PM  
**To:** Joanna BIDDLE  
**Cc:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: Anderson's reply

b6  
b7C

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HRC-9406

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[redacted]

b6  
b7C

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**From:** Joanna BIDDLE [mailto:[redacted]]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 09:02 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** Anderson's reply

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Evening [redacted]

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b6  
b7C

note-Anderson

NEW YORK, 24/09/2012 - 2026 -

HRC-9407

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From: Ari Fleischer [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, September 28, 2012 3:18 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: Network Ethics

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

[REDACTED]

Sorry to have taken so long to get back to you, but I figured after all the news and drama, I should let thing settle and reply.

I've been in your spot before - infuriated with something the press did. I've been there many times. Normally, if I thought the press did something wrong from my new perch in the private sector, I don't hold back and I say what I think.

In this instance, I do think CNN's reporting of the fear the Ambassador felt for his safety was hard news and legitimate. I have no knowledge of what promises were made or weren't made - but if you feel CNN promised you something and they reneged, then you have every right to make your points.

That may not be the full answer you were hoping for, but that's my perspective.

b6 Per DOS

[REDACTED]

Ari

ARI FLEISCHER COMMUNICATIONS I 914.764.9166 I facebook I twitter

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Saturday, September 22, 2012 3:10 PM  
To: Ari Fleischer  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Network Ethics

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Hi Ari

You've been doing the Lord's work in calling out the press for egregious behavior, to great effect - I think Helen Thomas would agree.

I know they're your sorta employer, but this has been a disgusting episode. I don't know if you ever worked with Chris Stevens, but he deserved to be treated better than this.

Thought even if you have to hold direct fire on them, some of your friends from your side of the aisle - people & places I'm not as familiar with - might be interested in seeing exactly what happened here with a network that might not be their channel of choice. I pasted the full story at bottom.

Hope you're well [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

CNN Used Slain Envoy's Writings Against Family's Wishes  
The Wall Street Journal  
By Adam Entous And Keach Hagey  
Sat, Sep 22, 2012

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10000872396390443890304578012473529847226.html?mod=WSJ\\_hpp\\_LEFTTopStories](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10000872396390443890304578012473529847226.html?mod=WSJ_hpp_LEFTTopStories)

CNN obtained a personal journal that belonged to the slain American ambassador to Libya, Christopher Stevens, and broadcast reports based on its contents against the wishes of the Stevens family, according to relatives and State Department officials who were asked to intervene by the family.

CNN obtained a personal journal that belonged to the slain American ambassador to Libya, Christopher Stevens, and broadcast reports based on its contents against the wishes of the Stevens family, according to relatives and State Department officials who were asked to intervene by the family.

CNN obtained the journal in Benghazi, where Mr. Stevens and three other Americans were killed in an attack by militants on the American consulate in the city on Sept. 11. It wasn't clear exactly how CNN obtained the ambassador's writings.

The episode marks a side drama in the aftermath of the consulate siege and highlights questions news organizations can encounter when they come across evidence also being sought by law enforcement or other government officials. Personal material important to surviving relatives represents an even-more delicate and unusual dilemma.

CNN said on its website that it notified the Stevens family "within hours" that it had the journal. But the Stevens family then reached out to the State Department, which arranged a telephone conference call between members of the Stevens family and CNN. In that call, the family personally appealed to the news organization to return the journal and to not publish or broadcast any of its contents, according to a Stevens family member and State Department officials.

The family told CNN during the call that it wanted to review the journal before the news media used it or alluded to it, saying the ambassador's personal writings belonged to them.

Family members said they knew Mr. Stevens kept a diary but didn't know what was in the journal obtained by CNN. The news organization initially provided the family with a transcript it prepared from the journal.

State Department officials said they then made arrangements for CNN to hand over the diary itself to an Italian diplomat in Benghazi.

The State Department enlisted the aid of the Italian envoy because U.S. diplomats evacuated the city after the Sept. 11 attack. The State Department had arranged for the Italian diplomat to safeguard the diary until it could be handed over to American officials in Tripoli. It will then be brought to the U.S., where the family will be able to take possession of it.

Family members and State Department officials said CNN agreed during the Sept. 14 conference call to hold off on using the diary until the family had a chance to review its contents.



But family members and U.S. officials were surprised when CNN anchor Anderson Cooper appeared to use the information from the journal by attributing it to a source familiar with Mr. Stevens's thinking.

In that broadcast, Mr. Cooper said the ambassador was worried about security threats in Benghazi and said he believed he was on an al Qaeda hit list.

A spokesperson for CNN said the network didn't report directly from the journal, but corroborated the information through other sources.

Mr. Cooper addressed the question of the journal and the CNN reports in his Friday evening broadcast. He disclosed the station had the journal and that some of the information he reported on Wednesday originated from Mr. Stevens's personal writings.

"Some of that information was found in a personal journal of Ambassador Stevens in his handwriting," Mr. Cooper told viewers. "We came upon the journal through our reporting and notified the family. At their request, we returned that journal to them. We reported what we found newsworthy in the ambassador's writings."

###

---

**From:** Bennett, Charles [redacted]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 23, 2012 2:33 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: CNN Statement

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

OK.  
I this is it. Right?

A spokesman for the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the nation's top intelligence officials, said "actionable intelligence would have meant that we either saw or heard something, through intelligence collection, that told us that a specific act was being planned or was imminent. As I have said, we are not aware of any actionable intelligence related to the attack in Benghazi."

Read more: <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2012/09/14/diplomatic-western-posts-targeted-repeatedly-in-benghazi-in-run-up-to-deadly/#ixzz27JqmP1io>

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2012/09/14/diplomatic-western-posts-targeted-repeatedly-in-benghazi-in-run-up-to-deadly/>

---

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 23, 2012 2:28 PM  
**To:** Bennett, Charles  
**Subject:** Re: CNN Statement

b6  
b7C

Let me do this on background because I can't speak for other agencies - but last week, maybe Monday, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence issued a statement that there was nothing like that. I'm paraphrasing. Let me know if you can't find it and I'll track it down.

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**From:** Bennett, Charles [mailto:[redacted]]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 23, 2012 02:20 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: CNN Statement

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Understood. Let me phrase the question this way: Did Ambassador Stevens ever express concerns about the security situation in Benghazi or being part of some kind hit list?

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**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 23, 2012 2:19 PM  
**To:** Bennett, Charles  
**Subject:** Re: CNN Statement

b6  
b7C

To this moment we have no idea what's in the diary

HRC-9413

**From:** Bennett, Charles [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 23, 2012 02:18 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: CNN Statement

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Received. Thanks.

What about the contents of the diary? Did Stevens ever express his worries about the security situation in Benghazi or being include on a hit list to other State Dept officials?

Regards,

Chuck Bennett  
Reporter  
New York Post

b6 Per DOS.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 23, 2012 2:00 PM  
**To:** Bennett, Charles  
**Subject:** Re: CNN Statement

b6  
b7C

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What they're not owning up to is reading and transcribing Chris's diary well before bothering to tell the family or anyone else that they took it from the site of the attack. Or that when they finally did inform them, they completely ignored the wishes of the family, and ultimately broke their pledge, made to the Stevens family only hours after they witnessed the return to the United States of Chris's remains.

Whose first instinct is to remove from a crime scene the diary of a man killed along with three other Americans serving our country, read it, transcribe it, email it around your newsroom for others to read, and only when their curiosity is fully satisfied thinks to call the family or notify the authorities?

Then, someone who seems to be a junior blogger at CNN, eventually called the Stevens family. Setting aside the question of why CNN didn't assign that obviously delicate call to someone more appropriate, that person didn't say, 'Hello, I know this is a terrible time, I'm sorry for your loss. But I'm sure you want your son's diary, where do you want it sent?' They instead took the opportunity to ask the family if CNN could report on its contents. Contents known only to Chris Stevens, and those at CNN who had already invaded his privacy.

They were told no.

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HRC-9414

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But the Stevens family was never given that chance. It seems that four days is as long as CNN can control themselves, so they just went ahead and used it. Entirely because they felt like it. Anderson Cooper didn't even bother to offer any explanation as to why the network broke its promise to the family. And he only made that statement after CNN was contacted by reporters asking CNN to explain their convoluted sourcing.

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But there is one question more than any other that they need to answer: If they weren't going to respect the family's wishes, why did CNN even bother to ask them what they wanted to happen with the diary? CNN had already read every word of the diary before speaking with the family. They knew exactly what it contained. If they had assessed based on what they read that they had a responsibility to the public to report on the contents of the diary, why didn't they just say that right away, explain it to the family, and then proceed as they deemed appropriate and necessary? Nothing in the diary changed over the days that followed. From the outset, CNN had every piece of information they needed to make an editorial judgment. So why the ruse?

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They could have spared themselves the trouble, spared their own viewers from being misled about how they came to their reporting, and more important than anything else, spared the family from the emotional whiplash CNN created.

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**From:** Bennett, Charles [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 23, 2012 12:53 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** CNN Statement

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Hi [REDACTED] Can you please send me the statement RE CNN and the late Ambassador Steven's diary.  
Thanks,

Chuck Bennett  
Reporter  
New York Post

b6 Per DOS

---

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 23, 2012 2:36 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: CNN Statement

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Looks right. But I thought it was 9/17 not 9/14

---

**From:** Bennett, Charles [mailto:[redacted]]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 23, 2012 02:32 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: CNN Statement

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

OK.  
I this is it. Right?

A spokesman for the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the nation's top intelligence officials, said "actionable intelligence would have meant that we either saw or heard something, through intelligence collection, that told us that a specific act was being planned or was imminent. As I have said, we are not aware of any actionable intelligence related to the attack in Benghazi."

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<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2012/09/14/diplomatic-western-posts-targeted-repeatedly-in-benghazi-in-run-up-to-deadly/>

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**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 23, 2012 2:28 PM  
**To:** Bennett, Charles  
**Subject:** Re: CNN Statement

b6  
b7C

Let me do this on background because I can't speak for other agencies - but last week, maybe Monday, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence issued a statement that there was nothing like that. I'm paraphrasing. Let me know if you can't find it and I'll track it down.

---

**From:** Bennett, Charles [mailto:[redacted]]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 23, 2012 02:20 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: CNN Statement

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Understood. Let me phrase the question this way: Did Ambassador Stevens ever express concerns about the security situation in Benghazi or being part of some kind hit list?

HRC-9417

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**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 23, 2012 2:19 PM  
**To:** Bennett, Charles  
**Subject:** Re: CNN Statement

b6  
b7C

To this moment we have no idea what's in the diary

---

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**Sent:** Sunday, September 23, 2012 02:18 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: CNN Statement

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b7C Per FBI

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Chuck Bennett  
Reporter  
New York Post

b6 Per DOS

---

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**Subject:** Re: CNN Statement

b6  
b7C

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They were told no.

HRC-9418

At this point the Stevens family reached out to us to enlist our help with CNN.

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But the Stevens family was never given that chance. It seems that four days is as long as CNN can control themselves, so they just went ahead and used it. Entirely because they felt like it. Anderson Cooper didn't even bother to offer any explanation as to why the network broke its promise to the family. And he only made that statement after CNN was contacted by reporters asking CNN to explain their convoluted sourcing.

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---

**From:** Bennett, Charles [mailto:[REDACTED]]

b6 Per DOS, FBI

**Sent:** Sunday, September 23, 2012 12:53 PM

b7C Per FBI

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** CNN Statement

Hi [REDACTED] Can you please send me the statement RE CNN and the late Ambassador Steven's diary.

Thanks,

Chuck Bennett  
Reporter  
New York Post

[REDACTED]

b6 Per DOS

---

**From:** Bennett, Charles [redacted]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 23, 2012 4:12 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: CNN Statement

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Did anyone ever address what the diary was doing out there so long? If not, does State have a statement on why it was left unsecured for so long, even after the security situation improved?

---

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 23, 2012 2:36 PM  
**To:** Bennett, Charles  
**Subject:** Re: CNN Statement

b6  
b7C

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Read more: <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2012/09/14/diplomatic-western-posts-targeted-repeatedly-in-benghazi-in-run-up-to-deadly/#ixzz27JqmP1io>

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**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 23, 2012 2:28 PM  
**To:** Bennett, Charles  
**Subject:** Re: CNN Statement

b6  
b7C

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**From:** Bennett, Charles [mailto: ]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 23, 2012 02:20 PM  
**To:**   
**Subject:** RE: CNN Statement

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Understood. Let me phrase the question this way: Did Ambassador Stevens ever express concerns about the security situation in Benghazi or being part of some kind hit list?

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**From:**   
**Sent:** Sunday, September 23, 2012 2:19 PM  
**To:** Bennett, Charles  
**Subject:** Re: CNN Statement

b6  
b7C

To this moment we have no idea what's in the diary

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**To:**   
**Subject:** RE: CNN Statement

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Reporter  
New York Post

b6 Per DOS

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b6  
b7C

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HRC-9422

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**From:** Bennett, Charles [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 23, 2012 12:53 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** CNN Statement

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Hi [REDACTED] Can you please send me the statement RE CNN and the late Ambassador Steven's diary.  
Thanks,

Chuck Bennett  
Reporter  
New York Post

[REDACTED]

b6 Per DOS

From: Joanna BIDDLE [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2012 9:05 AM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: Nicolas REVISE  
Subject: RE: CNN's Explanation(s)

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Good morning [REDACTED]

Set up at CGI, for the Secretary's remarks this morning. I'm afraid our editors want us to write something on CNN's release of ambassador Stevens's diary, which so far we hadn't written about. Could you please let us have either your original statement, or a new one with a reaction to CNN's allegations about "shooting the messenger." Further to that there is an issue about how they were able to get hold of it diary, when surely the Benghazi mission should have been carefully swept in case any classified documents had survived the fire. What are your comments on that issue?

Thanks so much, Jo

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Sunday, September 23, 2012 4:00 PM  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: CNN's Explanation(s)

b6  
b7C

All -

Excuse the intrusion on your Sunday, but I've heard from more than half of you or the media outlets you represent asking for reaction to CNN's atrocious behavior in the handling of Ambassador Stevens's diary, as originally reported by The Wall Street Journal, and expanded on by The Washington Post just a little while ago.

I continue to hear from many of you still trying to comprehend why CNN did what they did, so I just want to bring everyone up to speed at once.

I also know that to many of you, this is not simply a 'story' as you knew or worked with Chris, and find this as distasteful as everyone here at State does.

I'm more than happy to send my existing statement. But I want to wait in case CNN issues another excuse of the day in order to address it. I'm struggling to keep up with them since they are clearly having a hard time settling on a single credible explanation that gets them off the hook for lying to the family. They keep changing their tune, issuing inadequate, confusing, and conflicting explanations, offering four in as many days, some on air, some by paper. Even as I type I'm hearing they're trying on a new one for size, peddling that the family didn't really understand what CNN said to them. Never mind that there were five people on the call that CNN is claiming four people misunderstood.

So once they finally get their latest story straight and stick to it, I'll follow up with you all. Not sure that will be anytime soon since it's clear they don't know how to explain, let alone justify their actions. And I'm certainly not going to hold my breath until someone is held accountable.

In the meantime, here is the Post story I mentioned above, you might find it helpful:

CNN vs. the State Department: A Long Story By Erik Wemple The Washington Post Posted at 02:37 PM ET, 09/23/2012

CNN's Anderson Cooper on Wednesday night brought his viewers some big news about the fatal Sept. 11 attacks against the U.S. consulate and nearby annex in Benghazi, Libya. All manner of details on the provenance and circumstances of the assaults that claimed the lives of U.S. Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens and three others have been unclear or in dispute. So the information that CNN divulged found an eager audience. Here's Cooper:

Now, you are looking at the scene just outside the consulate in Benghazi as a pro-American crowd tried to rush Ambassador Stevens, who was wounded, still alive, to the hospital. Tonight, [CNN] obtains exclusive information about the climate that led up to all of this.

A source familiar with Ambassador Stevens' thinking said in the months before his death, he talked about being worried about what he called the never-ending security threats, specifically in Benghazi. The source [is] telling us that the ambassador specifically mentioned the rise in Islamic extremism, the growing al-Qaeda presence in Libya, and said that he was on an al-Qaeda hit list.

Exclusive, foreign, terrorism-related, breaking news – that's so CNN. The Web ate the story for breakfast and lunch the next day. On Friday night, Cooper returned to the topic of Stevens, this time with more compelling stuff:

The information for [Wednesday's] report, like all of CNN's reporting, was carefully vetted. Some of that information was found in a personal journal of Ambassador Stevens in his handwriting. We came upon the journal through our reporting and notified the family.

At their request, we returned that journal to them. We reported what we found newsworthy in the ambassador's writings. Our reporting followed up on what we found newsworthy, as I said, in the ambassador's writings.

Those are six very heavy sentences. And there's an extensive story behind them, as the Wall Street Journal and the Huffington Post reported on Saturday. The family of the late ambassador had requested that CNN not issue any reports based on the journal – or even reference its existence – before the family consented. CNN agreed to abide by the family's wishes, according to Philippe Reines, a State Department spokesman who listened in on a conference call between a CNN executive and a representative of the Stevens family.

State and CNN have spent a good part of the weekend trading nasty words on the spat. The length of this State Department tract alone makes clear just how peeved its leadership is:

Given the truth of how this was handled, CNN patting themselves on the back is disgusting.

What they're not owning up to is reading and transcribing Chris's diary well before bothering to tell the family or anyone else that they took it from the site of the attack. Or that when they finally did tell them, they completely ignored the wishes of the family, and ultimately broke their pledge made to them only hours after they witnessed the return to the United States of Chris's remains.

Whose first instinct is to remove from a crime scene the diary of a man killed along with three other Americans serving our country, read it, transcribe it, email it around your newsroom for others to read, and only when their curiosity is fully satisfied thinks to call the family or notify the authorities?

When a junior person at CNN called, they didn't say, 'Hello, I know this is a terrible time, but I'm sure you want your son's diary, where do you want it sent?' They instead took the

opportunity to ask the family if CNN could report on its contents. Contents known only to Chris Stevens, and those at CNN who had already invaded his privacy.

When the seniormost levels of CNN were finally reached, they needed to be convinced to do the right thing. But not before they took a second shot at convincing the family to let them report on the contents. A family member made it crystal clear directly to CNN that they wanted Chris's diary and would not make any other decisions until then. But that wasn't fast enough for CNN, so they helpfully offered to send the family the transcript they'd already made and passed around, to put a rush on it for their own purposes.

It was then made clear to them, for what must have been the fourth time in the same call, that they wanted to look at it privately, together as a family before making any decisions. Period. CNN finally heard their request enough times that they had to accept it, agreed to abide by the clear wishes of the Stevens family, and pledged not to use the diary or even allude to its existence until hearing back from the family.

But the Stevens family was never given that chance. I guess four days was as long as CNN could control themselves, so they just went ahead and used it. Entirely because they felt like it. Anderson Cooper didn't even bother to offer any other explanation as to why the network broke its promise to the family. And only did so after being contacted by a reporter asking about the diary and their convoluted sourcing.

How do they justify that? They have yet to even try to defend the indefensible. Not a proud episode in CNN's history. I'm sure there are many good people in the CNN newsroom equally appalled by this decision and wondering who above them authorized this course of action.

And CNN:

We think the public had a right to know what CNN had learned from multiple sources about the fears and warnings of a terror threat before the Benghazi attack which are now raising questions about why the State Department didn't do more to protect Ambassador Stevens and other U.S. personnel. Perhaps the real question here is why is the State Department now attacking the messenger.

In sum, an extraordinary disagreement between this country's foreign-policy shop and one of its more aggressive agents of foreign reportage. It all stems from the unique circumstances that unraveled on Sept. 11. The attacks on the consulate and annex were severe enough that the State Department evacuated all U.S. personnel from the compound, leaving, in effect, an unsecured crime scene.

A full three days after the attack, CNN senior international correspondent Arwa Damon found Stevens' journal at the site of the Benghazi consulate, according to Reines.

Reines found out about the journal not long after a "return of remains" ceremony for Ambassador Stevens and the other victims at Andrews Air Force Base on Friday, Sept. 14. He received a call from State's protocol office alerting him that someone from CNN had called the Stevens family with the news that they'd recovered the ambassador's journal. To CNN's request to report on its contents, the family member responded in the negative.

The Stevens family wanted State's help, so Reines got in touch with a Stevens family member who confirmed the story for him. Now Reines wanted to chat with CNN, so he e-mailed the woman — CNN staffer Meredith Edwards — who'd reportedly contacted the Stevens family. No reply. Next on the list was Mark Whitaker, a ranking CNN news executive. Reines asked Whitaker whether the story he'd heard was accurate. Whitaker confirmed the gist of things but wasn't forthcoming, recalls Reines: "He was clearly sheepish and defensive from the beginning," says Reines. "He said, 'We're talking to our lawyers.' And I said, 'Mark, if you're talking to your lawyers, then you know you're on shaky ground.'"

HRC-9427



That call was merely a prelude to more calls. Later that Friday, Reines chatted with Richard Griffiths, a key CNN editorial official who confirmed possession of the Stevens diary and explained that the late ambassador had procured it in Stockholm and had started writing in it on his last holiday. Reines discussed getting Griffiths on the line with the Stevens family to hash out the affair. Griffiths then told Reines how he'd pitch the family: That the journal provided a beautiful window into Stevens's character and dedication to his work and that they'd like permission to go ahead and use it on air.

In a subsequent conference call with the family and State officials, CNN's Griffiths "regurgitated" the script, Reines says. The family member listened and said no. Reines: "The family member thoughtfully and clearly told Griffiths that this was Chris's personal property and that they believed it was their personal property now, that they wanted it back and that they would not make any other decisions about it" until they reviewed it. There wasn't an insistence that they'd never bless its use, nor an indication that they would - just a preference that they jointly take a look at the contents before making any decisions.

Griffiths asked if the family would be okay with CNN at least saying that it had recovered the journal on the site of the attacks and had returned it to the family. Family member: No.

After that rejection, Griffiths told the Stevens family member that CNN had transcribed the diary and could pass it along in e-mail format. The family member declined to share an e-mail address, so the parties agreed that Griffiths would send the text to Reines, who would then forward it on to the Stevens family. Reines fulfilled his middleman role and says he has never glimpsed at the contents of the e-mail; nor has any State Department official had access to it, he says.

One clear takeaway from the conference call, says Reines, is CNN's standing on the question of family deference. It was absolute, he says - Griffiths stated that the network would honor the wishes of the family not to mention the journal on air. "There was no other caveat or asterisk," says Reines, whose account was corroborated by two other State Department sources who overheard the conference call.

The next step was arranging for Damon to pass the journal along to an Italian diplomat so that it could be delivered back to the family. "The first order of business was getting this out of CNN's hands, given their behavior and their insensitive interactions with the family," says Reines.

Things were quiet until the following week, when Cooper began what Reines called "breathless" coverage alleging that Stevens believed he was on an al-Qaeda hit list. That information, in Cooper's wording, was based on an anonymous source. "They constructed something that allowed them to satisfy their minimal journalistic standards to break their pledge to the family," says Reines.

The network differs, saying that it had "multiple sources" for that information. "Out of respect to the family, we have not quoted from or shown the journal," says a CNN statement.

CNN never apprised anyone in the Stevens family of its plans to mention the journal on air, says Reines, though a CNN source insists that the network tried many times to reach the family after the Sept. 14 conference call, "to no avail." In its statement, CNN gives this explanation for discussing the item on air:

The reason CNN ultimately reported Friday on the existence of the journal was because leaks to media organizations incorrectly suggested CNN had not quickly returned the journal, which we did.

Odd bit of reasoning: Did CNN run some material because someone had apparently peddled false rumors to other news outlets? The Wall Street Journal, says Reines, was poking around at this story, asking CNN if it was true that it had come into possession of the Stevens journal. (The Wall Street Journal declined to comment on the matter).

"[CNN's] explanation for breaking their promise to the ambassador's family is that someone was leaking on them, rather than any kind of responsibility to their own standards," says Reines. "That is hardly a profile in courage." Aside from this non-consideration, says Reines, CNN's editorial formulations didn't change from the moment it spoke with the family to the time that it apprised its viewers of the journal. "The only thing that changed was their integrity," says Reines.

Any fair accounting of this dispute must start with an endorsement of CNN's industriousness. That a reporter from the network got to the scene and fetched an item that no one else had found speaks well of CNN and its commitment to international reporting. If CNN hadn't been on the ground, after all, the Stevens family may never have recovered the journal. That a news organization, and not a U.S. government entity, scored the journal speaks ill of the latter.

From there, the story gets more complicated. Journals enjoy an exalted cone of privacy among civilized people: Hands off.

That cone shatters, of course, when we're talking about the writings of an ambassador who's been killed in a high-profile attack in a volatile foreign country. Reflections and information in the journal may be of immediate public interest, an imperative that steamrolls any considerations about privacy. Not only was CNN right to read and copy the journal, but also it was obligated by its newsgathering mission to do so.

Judging from the record, it's clear that the journal was instrumental in CNN's Wednesday night story about Ambassador Stevens and the al-Qaeda angle. That piece was unflattering to the interests of the State Department, which, after all, is entrusted with protecting its personnel overseas. Is that why State is so upset over this matter? Not at all, says Reines: "The reaction that they are getting [from State] is in response to their lying to the family," said Reines. As to the underlying story about how effectively State protected its people, Reines responds, "Questions about what happened are legitimate and are being asked and are being reviewed."

Now, on to how CNN handled the family of the late ambassador. The network appeared to be leading from behind when it asked for permission to use the journal in its broadcasts – an approach that suggests that the family had veto rights over the material. A more headstrong news organization would have politely told the family that it had recovered this personal effect, had reviewed it and was inclined to use the material. Had the family objected, CNN could have responded that it would take its wishes into consideration but would issue no guarantees. Says Reines: "If they had Mirandized the family in that phone call ... I would say I disagree and I probably would appeal, but at the end of the day I would disparage them to my colleagues and would say the media sucks and here's another example, but I wouldn't make an argument to them on the law."

###

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From: [redacted]  
Sent: Sunday, September 23, 2012 3:35 PM  
To: [redacted]  
Subject: Re: CNN

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Ok

Let's do it

But I need to call you from a hardline that doesn't ring in

----- Original Message -----

From: Naveena Kottoor [mailto:[redacted]]  
Sent: Sunday, September 23, 2012 03:33 PM  
To: [redacted]  
Subject: RE: CNN

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

[redacted] any news? As I said the State Dept point of view will be very feeble if we can only use the statement. Please let me know asap as I need to script the sequence. Thanks

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted]  
Sent: 23 September 2012 20:14  
To: Naveena Kottoor  
Subject: Re: CNN

b6  
b7C

Would it be interacting with the ethicist or just the host? Not looking for a debate

----- Original Message -----

From: Naveena Kottoor [mailto:[redacted]]  
Sent: Sunday, September 23, 2012 03:12 PM  
To: [redacted]  
Subject: RE: CNN

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Ok I will have a look in a minute. [redacted] are you going to come on. Because so far I have a former State Dept official saying the story raises issues about the security on the ground and a media ethics commentator who says it's in the public interest. So we really need you to come on, even if it's just for 3 minutes.

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted]  
Sent: 23 September 2012 20:05  
To: Naveena Kottoor  
Subject: Re: CNN

b6  
b7C

You should digest this: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/erik-wemple/post/cnn-vs-the-state-department-a-long-story/2012/09/23/36f4d9dc-051c-11e2-8102-ebee9c66e190\\_blog.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/erik-wemple/post/cnn-vs-the-state-department-a-long-story/2012/09/23/36f4d9dc-051c-11e2-8102-ebee9c66e190_blog.html)

----- Original Message -----

From: Naveena Kottoor [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
Sent: Sunday, September 23, 2012 03:01 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: CNN

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

So?

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 23 September 2012 19:24  
To: Naveena Kottoor  
Subject: Re: CNN

b6  
b7C

Yes

----- Original Message -----

From: Naveena Kottoor [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
Sent: Sunday, September 23, 2012 02:23 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: CNN

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Ok, do you think you can let me know by 1500 EST?

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 23 September 2012 19:18  
To: Naveena Kottoor  
Subject: Re: CNN

b6  
b7C

I hear ya

Give me a bit to see what life will be like at 4pm

----- Original Message -----

From: Naveena Kottoor [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
Sent: Sunday, September 23, 2012 02:16 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: CNN

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Hi,

We are on air live at 1600 EST, and you would be on air for about 3 or 4 minutes, we would probably call you at 1608 to establish the line, and you would be on air between 1610 and 1619 EST. On the phone or on Skype. We also have a media commentator on the journalistic ethics but it's almost impossible to put the State Department's and family view across just with the statement.

Would that work for you?

Best,

HRC-9431

Naveena

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 23 September 2012 19:12  
To: Naveena Kottoor  
Subject: Re: CNN

b6  
b7C

I definitely can't for awhile, but until what time here in DC could you make it work by phone?

----- Original Message -----

From: Naveena Kottoor [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
Sent: Sunday, September 23, 2012 02:08 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: CNN

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Hello [REDACTED]

Thanks a lot for this. Are you sure you don't want to come on air? It wouldn't take longer than 5 minutes. It's very difficult for us to cover this for broadcast just with statements. We could also prerecord something anytime from now. My number is [REDACTED]

b6 Per DOS

Thanks a lot, Naveena

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 23 September 2012 18:44  
To: Naveena Kottoor  
Subject: CNN

b6  
b7C

Naveena -

Thank you for the opportunity to come on your show, but given how little I've slept over the past 12 days, I'm afraid I wouldn't be especially coherent. I'm happy though to pass on the statement I have sent others. Everything that follows is ON the record and attributable to me:

Given the truth of how this was handled, CNN patting themselves on the back is disgusting.

What they're not owning up to is reading and transcribing Chris's diary well before bothering to tell the family or anyone else that they took it from the site of the attack. Or that when they finally did inform them, they completely ignored the wishes of the family, and ultimately broke their pledge, made to the Stevens family only hours after they witnessed the return to the United States of Chris's remains.

Whose first instinct is to remove from a crime scene the diary of a man killed along with three other Americans serving our country, read it, transcribe it, email it around your newsroom for others to read, and only when their curiosity is fully satisfied thinks to call the family or notify the authorities?

Then, someone who seems to be a junior blogger at CNN, eventually called the Stevens family. Setting aside the question of why CNN didn't assign that obviously delicate call to someone

HRC-9432

more appropriate, that person didn't say, 'Hello, I know this is a terrible time, I'm sorry for your loss. But I'm sure you want your son's diary, where do you want it sent?' They instead took the opportunity to ask the family if CNN could report on its contents. Contents known only to Chris Stevens, and those at CNN who had already invaded his privacy.

They were told no.

At this point the Stevens family reached out to us to enlist our help with CNN.

When the seniormost levels of CNN were finally reached, they needed to be convinced to do the right thing. But not before they took another shot at convincing the family to let them report on the contents. A family member made it crystal clear directly to CNN that they wanted Chris's diary and would not make any other decisions until then. But that wasn't fast enough for CNN, so they graciously offered to send the family the transcript they'd already made and passed around internally, to put a rush on the family for their own purposes.

CNN then pressed for permission to at least take credit on-air for recovering the diary.

They were told no.

It was then made clear to CNN yet again that they wanted to look at it privately, together as a family before making any decisions. Period. CNN finally accepted what they were hearing, agreed to abide by the clear wishes of the Stevens family, and pledged not to use the diary or even allude to its existence until hearing back from the family to grant their permission.

But the Stevens family was never given that chance. It seems that four days is as long as CNN can control themselves, so they just went ahead and used it. Entirely because they felt like it. Anderson Cooper didn't even bother to offer any explanation as to why the network broke its promise to the family. And he only made that statement after CNN was contacted by reporters asking CNN to explain their convoluted sourcing.

CNN's actions and Cooper's admission, and subsequent statements by CNN raise serious questions that they won't answer. Because they can't without indicting their own behavior. But there is one question more than any other that they need to answer: If they weren't going to respect the family's wishes, why did CNN even bother to ask them what they wanted to happen with the diary? CNN had already read every word of the diary before speaking with the family. They knew exactly what it contained. If they had assessed based on what they read that they had a responsibility to the public to report on the contents of the diary, why didn't they just say that right away, explain it to the family, and then proceed as they deemed appropriate and necessary? Nothing in the diary changed over the days that followed. From the outset, CNN had every piece of information they needed to make an editorial judgment. So why the ruse?

The answer is simple: the only thing that changed as the days went on was CNN's integrity.

They should never have made that promise if they felt compelled to report on the contents of the diary. The pride they are now showing in their journalistic responsibilities should have been on display from the moment they picked the diary up off the ground. They could have spared themselves the trouble, spared their own viewers from being misled about how they came to their reporting, and more important than anything else, spared the family from the emotional whiplash CNN created.

They have yet to even try to defend the indefensible. Not a proud episode in CNN's history. I'm sure there are many good people in the CNN newsroom equally appalled by what happened and are now wondering who above them authorized this despicable course of action.

###

[Here is the above referenced statement Anderson Cooper made on air, 8:18pm, Friday 9/21/12: "On Wednesday we reported that a source familiar with ambassador Stevens' thinking said in the months before his death, ambassador Stevens talked about being worried about what he called the never-ending security threats in Benghazi. We also reported that the ambassador specifically mentioned the rise in Islamic extremism, the growing al Qaeda presence in Libya and said he was on an al Qaeda hit list. The information for that report like all of CNN's reporting was carefully vetted. Some of that information was found in a personal journal of ambassador Stevens in his handwriting. We came upon the journal through our reporting and notified the family. At their request, we returned that journal to them. We reported what we found newsworthy in the ambassador's writings. A reporter followed up on what we found newsworthy in the ambassador's writings."]

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-----



From: Naveena Kottoor [redacted]  
Sent: Sunday, September 23, 2012 3:34 PM  
To: [redacted]  
Subject: RE: CNN

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

[redacted] any news? As I said the State Dept point of view will be very feeble if we can only use the statement. Please let me know asap as I need to script the sequence. Thanks

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted]  
Sent: 23 September 2012 20:14  
To: Naveena Kottoor  
Subject: Re: CNN

b6  
b7C

Would it be interacting with the ethicist or just the host? Not looking for a debate

----- Original Message -----

From: Naveena Kottoor [mailto:[redacted]]  
Sent: Sunday, September 23, 2012 03:12 PM  
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Subject: RE: CNN

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b6  
b7C

You should digest this: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/erik-wemple/post/cnn-vs-the-state-department-a-long-story/2012/09/23/36f4d9dc-051c-11e2-8102-ebee9c66e190\\_blog.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/erik-wemple/post/cnn-vs-the-state-department-a-long-story/2012/09/23/36f4d9dc-051c-11e2-8102-ebee9c66e190_blog.html)

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b7C Per FBI

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Subject: Re: CNN

b6  
b7C

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----- Original Message -----

From: Naveena Kottoor [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
Sent: Sunday, September 23, 2012 02:23 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: CNN

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Ok, do you think you can let me know by 1500 EST?

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:reinesp@state.gov]  
Sent: 23 September 2012 19:18  
To: Naveena Kottoor  
Subject: Re: CNN

b6  
b7C

I hear ya

Give me a bit to see what life will be like at 4pm

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To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: CNN

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b7C Per FBI

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Would that work for you?

Best,  
Naveena

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 23 September 2012 19:12  
To: Naveena Kottoor  
Subject: Re: CNN

b6  
b7C

I definitely can't for awhile, but until what time here in DC could you make it work by phone?

----- Original Message -----

HRC-9437

From: Naveena Kottoor [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
Sent: Sunday, September 23, 2012 02:08 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: CNN

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Hello [REDACTED]

Thanks a lot for this. Are you sure you don't want to come on air? It wouldn't take longer than 5 minutes. It's very difficult for us to cover this for broadcast just with statements. We could also prerecord something anytime from now. My number is [REDACTED] b6 Per DOS

Thanks a lot, Naveena

-----Original Message-----

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Sent: 23 September 2012 18:44  
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Subject: CNN

b6  
b7C

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Then, someone who seems to be a junior blogger at CNN, eventually called the Stevens family. Setting aside the question of why CNN didn't assign that obviously delicate call to someone more appropriate, that person didn't say, 'Hello, I know this is a terrible time, I'm sorry for your loss. But I'm sure you want your son's diary, where do you want it sent?' They instead took the opportunity to ask the family if CNN could report on its contents. Contents known only to Chris Stevens, and those at CNN who had already invaded his privacy.

They were told no.

At this point the Stevens family reached out to us to enlist our help with CNN.

When the seniormost levels of CNN were finally reached, they needed to be convinced to do the right thing. But not before they took another shot at convincing the family to let them report on the contents. A family member made it crystal clear directly to CNN that they wanted Chris's diary and would not make any other decisions until then. But that wasn't fast

enough for CNN, so they graciously offered to send the family the transcript they'd already made and passed around internally, to put a rush on the family for their own purposes.

CNN then pressed for permission to at least take credit on-air for recovering the diary.

They were told no.

It was then made clear to CNN yet again that they wanted to look at it privately, together as a family before making any decisions. Period. CNN finally accepted what they were hearing, agreed to abide by the clear wishes of the Stevens family, and pledged not to use the diary or even allude to its existence until hearing back from the family to grant their permission.

But the Stevens family was never given that chance. It seems that four days is as long as CNN can control themselves, so they just went ahead and used it. Entirely because they felt like it. Anderson Cooper didn't even bother to offer any explanation as to why the network broke its promise to the family. And he only made that statement after CNN was contacted by reporters asking CNN to explain their convoluted sourcing.

CNN's actions and Cooper's admission, and subsequent statements by CNN raise serious questions that they won't answer. Because they can't without indicting their own behavior. But there is one question more than any other that they need to answer: If they weren't going to respect the family's wishes, why did CNN even bother to ask them what they wanted to happen with the diary? CNN had already read every word of the diary before speaking with the family. They knew exactly what it contained. If they had assessed based on what they read that they had a responsibility to the public to report on the contents of the diary, why didn't they just say that right away, explain it to the family, and then proceed as they deemed appropriate and necessary? Nothing in the diary changed over the days that followed. From the outset, CNN had every piece of information they needed to make an editorial judgment. So why the ruse?

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From: Naveena Kottoor [redacted]  
Sent: Sunday, September 23, 2012 3:17 PM  
To: [redacted]  
Subject: RE: CNN

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

You don't have to interact if you don't want to, we would do a straight interview with you. Then the ethicist. And if you want you can come back on but you don't have to debate.

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted]  
Sent: 23 September 2012 20:14  
To: Naveena Kottoor  
Subject: Re: CNN

b6  
b7C

Would it be interacting with the ethicist or just the host? Not looking for a debate

----- Original Message -----

From: Naveena Kottoor [mailto:[redacted]]  
Sent: Sunday, September 23, 2012 03:12 PM  
To: [redacted]  
Subject: RE: CNN

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Ok I will have a look in a minute [redacted] are you going to come on. Because so far I have a former State Dept official saying the story raises issues about the security on the ground and a media ethics commentator who says it's in the public interest. So we really need you to come on, even if it's just for 3 minutes.

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Sent: 23 September 2012 20:05  
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Subject: Re: CNN

b6  
b7C

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----- Original Message -----

From: Naveena Kottoor [mailto:[redacted]]  
Sent: Sunday, September 23, 2012 03:01 PM  
To: [redacted]  
Subject: RE: CNN

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

So?

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted]  
Sent: 23 September 2012 19:24  
To: Naveena Kottoor  
Subject: Re: CNN

b6  
b7C

Yes

----- Original Message -----

From: Naveena Kottoor [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
Sent: Sunday, September 23, 2012 02:23 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: CNN

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Ok, do you think you can let me know by 1500 EST?

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 23 September 2012 19:18  
To: Naveena Kottoor  
Subject: Re: CNN

b6  
b7C

I hear ya

Give me a bit to see what life will be like at 4pm

----- Original Message -----

From: Naveena Kottoor [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
Sent: Sunday, September 23, 2012 02:16 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: CNN

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Hi,

We are on air live at 1600 EST, and you would be on air for about 3 or 4 minutes, we would probably call you at 1608 to establish the line, and you would be on air between 1610 and 1619 EST. On the phone or on Skype. We also have a media commentator on the journalistic ethics but it's almost impossible to put the State Department's and family view across just with the statement.

Would that work for you?

Best,  
Naveena

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 23 September 2012 19:12  
To: Naveena Kottoor  
Subject: Re: CNN

b6  
b7C

I definitely can't for awhile, but until what time here in DC could you make it work by phone?

----- Original Message -----

HRC-9443



From: Naveena Kottoor [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
Sent: Sunday, September 23, 2012 02:08 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: CNN

Hello [REDACTED]

Thanks a lot for this. Are you sure you don't want to come on air? It wouldn't take longer than 5 minutes. It's very difficult for us to cover this for broadcast just with statements. We could also prerecord something anytime from now. My number is [REDACTED] b6 Per DOS

Thanks a lot, Naveena

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 23 September 2012 18:44  
To: Naveena Kottoor  
Subject: CNN

b6  
b7C

Naveena -

Thank you for the opportunity to come on your show, but given how little I've slept over the past 12 days, I'm afraid I wouldn't be especially coherent. I'm happy though to pass on the statement I have sent others. Everything that follows is ON the record and attributable to me:

Given the truth of how this was handled, CNN patting themselves on the back is disgusting.

What they're not owning up to is reading and transcribing Chris's diary well before bothering to tell the family or anyone else that they took it from the site of the attack. Or that when they finally did inform them, they completely ignored the wishes of the family, and ultimately broke their pledge, made to the Stevens family only hours after they witnessed the return to the United States of Chris's remains.

Whose first instinct is to remove from a crime scene the diary of a man killed along with three other Americans serving our country, read it, transcribe it, email it around your newsroom for others to read, and only when their curiosity is fully satisfied thinks to call the family or notify the authorities?

Then, someone who seems to be a junior blogger at CNN, eventually called the Stevens family. Setting aside the question of why CNN didn't assign that obviously delicate call to someone more appropriate, that person didn't say, 'Hello, I know this is a terrible time, I'm sorry for your loss. But I'm sure you want your son's diary, where do you want it sent?' They instead took the opportunity to ask the family if CNN could report on its contents. Contents known only to Chris Stevens, and those at CNN who had already invaded his privacy.

They were told no.

At this point the Stevens family reached out to us to enlist our help with CNN.

When the seniormost levels of CNN were finally reached, they needed to be convinced to do the right thing. But not before they took another shot at convincing the family to let them report on the contents. A family member made it crystal clear directly to CNN that they wanted Chris's diary and would not make any other decisions until then. But that wasn't fast

HRC-9444

enough for CNN, so they graciously offered to send the family the transcript they'd already made and passed around internally, to put a rush on the family for their own purposes.

CNN then pressed for permission to at least take credit on-air for recovering the diary.

They were told no.

It was then made clear to CNN yet again that they wanted to look at it privately, together as a family before making any decisions. Period. CNN finally accepted what they were hearing, agreed to abide by the clear wishes of the Stevens family, and pledged not to use the diary or even allude to its existence until hearing back from the family to grant their permission.

But the Stevens family was never given that chance. It seems that four days is as long as CNN can control themselves, so they just went ahead and used it. Entirely because they felt like it. Anderson Cooper didn't even bother to offer any explanation as to why the network broke its promise to the family. And he only made that statement after CNN was contacted by reporters asking CNN to explain their convoluted sourcing.

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From: [redacted]  
Sent: Sunday, September 23, 2012 3:14 PM  
To: [redacted]  
Subject: Re: CNN

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Follow Up Flag: Follow up  
Flag Status: Flagged

Would it be interacting with the ethicist or just the host? Not looking for a debate

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From: Naveena Kottoor [mailto:[redacted]]  
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So?

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From: [redacted]  
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To: Naveena Kottoor  
Subject: Re: CNN

b6  
b7C

Yes

----- Original Message -----

HRC-9448

From: Naveena Kottoor [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
Sent: Sunday, September 23, 2012 02:23 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: CNN

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Ok, do you think you can let me know by 1500 EST?

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b6  
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b6  
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HRC-9449

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b6  
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**From:** Naveena Kottoor [redacted]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 23, 2012 3 12 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: CNN

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Ok I will have a look in a minute. [redacted] are you going to come on. Because so far I have a former State Dept official saying the story raises issues about the security on the ground and a media ethics commentator who says it's in the public interest. So we really need you to come on, even if it's just for 3 minutes.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 23 September 2012 20:05  
**To:** Naveena Kottoor  
**Subject:** Re: CNN

b6  
b7C

You should digest this: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/erik-wemple/post/cnn-vs-the-state-department-a-long-story/2012/09/23/36f4d9dc-051c-11e2-8102-ebee9c66e190\\_blog.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/erik-wemple/post/cnn-vs-the-state-department-a-long-story/2012/09/23/36f4d9dc-051c-11e2-8102-ebee9c66e190_blog.html)

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**From:** Naveena Kottoor [mailto:[redacted]]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 23, 2012 03:01 PM  
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**Subject:** RE: CNN

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
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So?

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**From:** [redacted]  
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**Subject:** Re: CNN

b6  
b7C

Yes

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**Subject:** RE: CNN

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Ok, do you think you can let me know by 1500 EST?

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**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 23 September 2012 19:18

b6  
b7C

HRC-9454

To: Naveena Kottoor  
Subject: Re: CNN

I hear ya

Give me a bit to see what life will be like at 4pm

----- Original Message -----

From: Naveena Kottoor [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
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Hi,

We are on air live at 1600 EST, and you would be on air for about 3 or 4 minutes, we would probably call you at 1608 to establish the line, and you would be on air between 1610 and 1619 EST. On the phone or on Skype. We also have a media commentator on the journalistic ethics but it's almost impossible to put the State Department's and family view across just with the statement.

Would that work for you?

Best,  
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Subject: RE: CNN

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Hello Phillipe,

Thanks a lot for this. Are you sure you don't want to come on air? It wouldn't take longer than 5 minutes. It's very difficult for us to cover this for broadcast just with statements. We could also prerecord something anytime from now. My number is [REDACTED] b6 Per DOS

Thanks a lot, Naveena

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From: [REDACTED]

b6  
b7C

HRC-9455

Sent: 23 September 2012 18:44  
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Subject: CNN

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What they're not owning up to is reading and transcribing Chris's diary well before bothering to tell the family or anyone else that they took it from the site of the attack. Or that when they finally did inform them, they completely ignored the wishes of the family, and ultimately broke their pledge, made to the Stevens family only hours after they witnessed the return to the United States of Chris's remains.

Whose first instinct is to remove from a crime scene the diary of a man killed along with three other Americans serving our country, read it, transcribe it, email it around your newsroom for others to read, and only when their curiosity is fully satisfied thinks to call the family or notify the authorities?

Then, someone who seems to be a junior blogger at CNN, eventually called the Stevens family. Setting aside the question of why CNN didn't assign that obviously delicate call to someone more appropriate, that person didn't say, 'Hello, I know this is a terrible time. I'm sorry for your loss. But I'm sure you want your son's diary, where do you want it sent?' They instead took the opportunity to ask the family if CNN could report on its contents. Contents known only to Chris Stevens, and those at CNN who had already invaded his privacy.

They were told no.

At this point the Stevens family reached out to us to enlist our help with CNN.

When the seniormost levels of CNN were finally reached, they needed to be convinced to do the right thing. But not before they took another shot at convincing the family to let them report on the contents. A family member made it crystal clear directly to CNN that they wanted Chris's diary and would not make any other decisions until then. But that wasn't fast enough for CNN, so they graciously offered to send the family the transcript they'd already made and passed around internally, to put a rush on the family for their own purposes.

CNN then pressed for permission to at least take credit on-air for recovering the diary.

They were told no.

It was then made clear to CNN yet again that they wanted to look at it privately, together as a family before making any decisions. Period. CNN finally accepted what they were hearing, agreed to abide by the clear wishes of the Stevens family, and pledged not to use the diary or even allude to its existence until hearing back from the family to grant their permission.

But the Stevens family was never given that chance. It seems that four days is as long as CNN can control themselves, so they just went ahead and used it. Entirely because they felt like it. Anderson Cooper didn't even bother to offer any explanation as to why the network broke its promise to the family. And he only made that statement after CNN was contacted by reporters asking CNN to explain their convoluted sourcing.

CNN's actions and Cooper's admission, and subsequent statements by CNN raise serious questions that they won't answer. Because they can't without indicting their own behavior. But there is one question more than any other that they need to answer: If they weren't going to respect the family's wishes, why did CNN even bother to ask them what they wanted to happen with the diary? CNN had already read every word of the diary before speaking with the family. They knew exactly what it contained. If they had assessed based on what they read that they had a responsibility to the public to report on the contents of the diary, why didn't they just say that right away, explain it to the family, and then proceed as they deemed appropriate and necessary? Nothing in the diary changed over the days that followed. From the outset, CNN had every piece of information they needed to make an editorial judgment. So why the ruse?

The answer is simple: the only thing that changed as the days went on was CNN's integrity.

They should never have made that promise if they felt compelled to report on the contents of the diary. The pride they are now showing in their journalistic responsibilities should have been on display from the moment they picked the diary up off the ground. They could have spared themselves the trouble, spared their own viewers from being misled about how they came to their reporting, and more important than anything else, spared the family from the emotional whiplash CNN created.

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Flag Status: Completed

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From: [redacted]  
Sent: Sunday, September 23, 2012 2:24 PM  
To: [redacted]  
Subject: Re: CNN

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Follow Up Flag: Follow up  
Flag Status: Completed

Yes

----- Original Message -----

From: Naveena Kottoor [mailto:[redacted]]  
Sent: Sunday, September 23, 2012 02:23 PM  
To: [redacted]  
Subject: RE: CNN

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
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Best,  
Naveena

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From: [redacted]

HRC-9469 b6  
b7C

Sent: 23 September 2012 19:12

To: Naveena Kottoor

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From: Naveena Kottoor [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
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HRC-9471

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They have yet to even try to defend the indefensible. Not a proud episode in CNN's history. I'm sure there are many good people in the CNN newsroom equally appalled by what happened and are now wondering who above them authorized this despicable course of action.

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-----

From: [redacted]  
Sent: Sunday, September 23, 2012 2:12 PM  
To: [redacted]  
Subject: Re: CNN

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Follow Up Flag: Follow up  
Flag Status: Completed

I definitely can't for awhile, but until what time here in DC could you make it work by phone?

----- Original Message -----

From: Naveena Kottoor [mailto:[redacted]]  
Sent: Sunday, September 23, 2012 02:08 PM  
To: [redacted]  
Subject: RE: CNN

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Hello [redacted]

Thanks a lot for this. Are you sure you don't want to come on air? It wouldn't take longer than 5 minutes. It's very difficult for us to cover this for broadcast just with statements. We could also prerecord something anytime from now. My number is [redacted]

b6 Per DOS

Thanks a lot, Naveena

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted]  
Sent: 23 September 2012 18:44  
To: Naveena Kottoor  
Subject: CNN

b6  
b7C

Naveena -

Thank you for the opportunity to come on your show, but given how little I've slept over the past 12 days, I'm afraid I wouldn't be especially coherent. I'm happy though to pass on the statement I have sent others. Everything that follows is ON the record and attributable to me:

Given the truth of how this was handled, CNN patting themselves on the back is disgusting.

What they're not owning up to is reading and transcribing Chris's diary well before bothering to tell the family or anyone else that they took it from the site of the attack. Or that when they finally did inform them, they completely ignored the wishes of the family, and ultimately broke their pledge, made to the Stevens family only hours after they witnessed the return to the United States of Chris's remains.

Whose first instinct is to remove from a crime scene the diary of a man killed along with three other Americans serving our country, read it, transcribe it, email it around your newsroom for others to read, and only when their curiosity is fully satisfied thinks to call the family or notify the authorities?

Then, someone who seems to be a junior blogger at CNN, eventually called the Stevens family. Setting aside the question of why CNN didn't assign that obviously delicate call to someone more appropriate, that person didn't say, 'Hello, I know this is a terrible time, I'm sorry for your loss. But I'm sure you want your son's diary, where do you want it sent?' They instead took the opportunity to ask the family if CNN could report on its contents. Contents known only to Chris Stevens, and those at CNN who had already invaded his privacy.

They were told no.

At this point the Stevens family reached out to us to enlist our help with CNN.

When the seniormost levels of CNN were finally reached, they needed to be convinced to do the right thing. But not before they took another shot at convincing the family to let them report on the contents. A family member made it crystal clear directly to CNN that they wanted Chris's diary and would not make any other decisions until then. But that wasn't fast enough for CNN, so they graciously offered to send the family the transcript they'd already made and passed around internally, to put a rush on the family for their own purposes.

CNN then pressed for permission to at least take credit on-air for recovering the diary.

They were told no.

It was then made clear to CNN yet again that they wanted to look at it privately, together as a family before making any decisions. Period. CNN finally accepted what they were hearing, agreed to abide by the clear wishes of the Stevens family, and pledged not to use the diary or even allude to its existence until hearing back from the family to grant their permission.

But the Stevens family was never given that chance. It seems that four days is as long as CNN can control themselves, so they just went ahead and used it. Entirely because they felt like it. Anderson Cooper didn't even bother to offer any explanation as to why the network broke its promise to the family. And he only made that statement after CNN was contacted by reporters asking CNN to explain their convoluted sourcing.

CNN's actions and Cooper's admission, and subsequent statements by CNN raise serious questions that they won't answer. Because they can't without indicting their own behavior. But there is one question more than any other that they need to answer: If they weren't going to respect the family's wishes, why did CNN even bother to ask them what they wanted to happen with the diary? CNN had already read every word of the diary before speaking with the family. They knew exactly what it contained. If they had assessed based on what they read that they had a responsibility to the public to report on the contents of the diary, why didn't they just say that right away, explain it to the family, and then proceed as they deemed appropriate and necessary? Nothing in the diary changed over the days that followed. From the outset, CNN had every piece of information they needed to make an editorial judgment. So why the ruse?

The answer is simple: the only thing that changed as the days went on was CNN's integrity.

They should never have made that promise if they felt compelled to report on the contents of the diary. The pride they are now showing in their journalistic responsibilities should have been on display from the moment they picked the diary up off the ground. They could have spared themselves the trouble, spared their own viewers from being misled about how they came to their reporting, and more important than anything else, spared the family from the emotional whiplash CNN created.

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\*\*\*

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-----

**From:** Naveena Kottoor [redacted]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 23, 2012 2:09 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: CNN

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Hello [redacted]

Thanks a lot for this. Are you sure you don't want to come on air? It wouldn't take longer than 5 minutes. It's very difficult for us to cover this for broadcast just with statements. We could also prerecord something anytime from now. My number is [redacted] b6 Per DOS

Thanks a lot, Naveena

-----Original Message-----

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**Sent:** 23 September 2012 18:44  
**To:** Naveena Kottoor  
**Subject:** CNN

b6  
b7C

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-----  
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**From:** Mike Allen [redacted]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 22, 2012 8:56 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** Fwd: CNN Statement

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Khairzada, Neel" [redacted]  
**Date:** September 22, 2012 8:52:47 PM EDT  
**To:** Mike Allen [redacted] "Robinson, Christa" [redacted]  
**Subject:** CNN Statement

b6 Per DOS

Hi Mike -

Here is the statement which includes the link to the story. Please confirm that you received it and also when you post.

Thank you,  
Neel

CNN statement about Ambassador Stevens' journal:

CNN did not initially report on the existence of a journal out of respect for the family, but we felt there were issues raised in the journal which required full reporting, which we did. We think the public had a right to know what CNN had learned from multiple sources about the fears and warnings of a terror threat before the Benghazi attack which are now raising questions about why the State Department didn't do more to protect Ambassador Stevens and other US personnel. Perhaps the real question here is why is the State Department now attacking the messenger.

As we said, we had multiple sources on Anderson Cooper's report Wednesday night.

<http://www.cnn.com/2012/09/22/world/africa/libya-ambassador-journal/index.html>

The reason CNN ultimately reported Friday on the existence of the journal was because leaks to media organizations incorrectly suggested CNN had not quickly returned the journal, which we did. We reached out to the family of Ambassador Stevens within hours of retrieving the journal and returned it through a third party, within less than 24 hours from the time we found it. Out of respect to the family, we have not quoted from or shown the journal.



---

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 22, 2012 8:57 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: Fwd: CNN Statement

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Translation: "We did it because we wanted to"

Are you guys doing anything?

---

**From:** Mike Allen [mailto:[redacted]]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 22, 2012 08:55 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** Fwd: CNN Statement

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Khairzada, Neel" [redacted]  
**Date:** September 22, 2012 8:52:47 PM EDT  
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Ambassador Stevens within hours of retrieving the journal and returned it through a third party, within less than 24 hours from the time we found it. Out of respect to the family, we have not quoted from or shown the journal.

From: Entous, Adam [redacted]  
Sent: Saturday, September 22, 2012 8:10 PM  
To: [redacted]  
Subject: Re: ON the Record

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Ya. You should pull the wsj into these things on day 1

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 22, 2012, at 8:07 PM, [redacted] wrote:

b6  
b7C

> I wish you'd been privy to this from day 1. You would not accept this bs explanation.

>  
>  
>

> ----- Original Message -----

> From: Entous, Adam [mailto:[redacted]]  
> Sent: Saturday, September 22, 2012 08:05 PM  
> To: [redacted]  
> Subject: Re: ON the Record

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

> I'm sure if I kept a diary as a kid id feel differently

>

> Sent from my iPhone

>

> On Sep 22, 2012, at 8:01 PM, [redacted] wrote:

b6  
b7C

>

>> Ok, so then don't agree not to use it

>>  
>>  
>>

>> ----- Original Message -----

>> From: Entous, Adam [mailto:[redacted]]  
>> Sent: Saturday, September 22, 2012 07:59 PM  
>> To: [redacted]  
>> Subject: Re: ON the Record

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

>>

>> I do think the contents are relevant. I would have cut a deal with them. Withheld publication. The "source close to Stevens" was shameful. But I would have read it probably to figure out what it was.

>>

>> Sent from my iPhone

>>

>> On Sep 22, 2012, at 7:54 PM, [redacted] wrote:

b6  
b7C

>>

>>> Not even pick up the phone and call the family?

>>>  
>>>  
>>>

>>> ----- Original Message -----

>>> From: Entous, Adam [mailto:[redacted]]  
>>> Sent: Saturday, September 22, 2012 07:53 PM  
>>> To: [redacted]  
>>> Subject: Re: ON the Record

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

>>>  
>>> I don't disagree with cnn but I don't like how cooper handled it.

>>>  
>>> Sent from my iPhone

>>>  
>>> On Sep 22, 2012, at 7:49 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

b6  
b7C

>>>> Like I said "We just didn't feel like it anymore"

>>>>  
>>>>  
>>>>

>>>> ----- Original Message -----

>>>> From: Entous, Adam [mailto:[REDACTED]]

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

>>>> Sent: Saturday, September 22, 2012 07:11 PM

>>>> To: [REDACTED]

>>>> Subject: Re: ON the Record

>>>>  
>>>>

>>>> CNN Statement:

>>>> CNN did not initially report on the existence of a journal out of respect for the family, but we felt there were issues raised in the journal which required full reporting, which we did. We think the public had a right to know what CNN had learned from multiple sources about the fears and warnings of a terror threat before the Benghazi attack which are now raising questions about why the State Department didn't do more to protect Ambassador Stevens and other US personnel. Perhaps the real question here is why is the State Department now attacking the messenger.

>>>>  
>>>> As we said, we had multiple sources on Anderson Cooper's report

>>>> Wednesday night<x-apple-data-detectors://4>. LINK TO

>>>> CNN.COM<http://CNN.COM/> STORY

>>>>

>>>> The reason we ultimately reported on the existence of the journal was because leaks to media organizations incorrectly suggested CNN had not quickly returned the journal, which we did. We reached out to the family of Ambassador Stevens within hours of retrieving the journal and returned it through a third party, within less than 24 hours from the time we found it. Out of respect to the family, we have not quoted from or shown the journal.

>>>>

>>>> Sent from my iPhone

>>>>

>>>> On Sep 22, 2012, at 3:03 PM, [REDACTED]

b6  
b7C

[REDACTED] wrote:

>>>>

>>>> God bless you

>>>>  
>>>>  
>>>>

>>>> ----- Original Message -----

>>>> From: Entous, Adam [mailto:[REDACTED]]

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

>>>> Sent: Saturday, September 22, 2012 03:02 PM

>>>> To: [REDACTED]

>>>> Subject: Re: ON the Record

>>>>

>>>> It will be free in a second online.

>>>>

>>>> CNN Used Slain Envoy's Writings Against Family's Wishes

>>>>

>>>> byline-box

>>>>

>>>> By Adam Entous

>>>> And Keach Hagey

>>>>

>>>> CNN obtained a personal journal that belonged to the slain American ambassador to Libya, Christopher Stevens, and broadcast reports based on its contents against the wishes of the Stevens family, according to relatives and State Department officials who were asked to intervene by the family.

>>>>

>>>>

>>>>

>>>> CNN obtained the journal in Benghazi, where Mr. Stevens and three other Americans were killed in an attack by militants on the American consulate in the city on Sept. 11. It wasn't clear exactly how CNN obtained the ambassador's writings.

>>>>

>>>> The episode marks a side drama in the aftermath of the consulate siege and highlights questions news organizations can encounter when they come across evidence also being sought by law enforcement or other government officials. Personal material important to surviving relatives represents an even-more delicate and unusual dilemma.

>>>>

>>>> CNN said on its website that it notified the Stevens family "within hours" that it had the journal. But the Stevens family then reached out to the State Department, which arranged a telephone conference call between members of the Stevens family and CNN. In that call, the family personally appealed to the news organization to return the journal and to not publish or broadcast any of its contents, according to a Stevens family member and State Department officials.

>>>>

>>>> The family told CNN during the call that it wanted to review the journal before the news media used it or alluded to it, saying the ambassador's personal writings belonged to them.

>>>>

>>>> Family members said they knew Mr. Stevens kept a diary but didn't know what was in the journal obtained by CNN. The news organization initially provided the family with a transcript it prepared from the journal.

>>>>

>>>> State Department officials said they then made arrangements for CNN to hand over the diary itself to an Italian diplomat in Benghazi.

>>>>

>>>> The State Department enlisted the aid of the Italian envoy because U.S. diplomats evacuated the city after the Sept. 11 attack. The State Department had arranged for the Italian diplomat to safeguard the diary until it could be handed over to American officials in Tripoli. It will then be brought to the U.S., where the family will be able to take possession of it.

>>>>

>>>> Family members and State Department officials said CNN agreed during the Sept. 14 conference call to hold off on using the diary until the family had a chance to review its contents.

>>>>

>>>> But family members and U.S. officials were surprised when CNN anchor Anderson Cooper appeared to use the information from the journal by attributing it to a source familiar with Mr. Stevens's thinking.

>>>>

>>>> In that broadcast, Mr. Cooper said the ambassador was worried about security threats in Benghazi and said he believed he was on an al Qaeda hit list.

>>>>

>>>> A spokesperson for CNN said the network didn't report directly from the journal, but corroborated the information through other sources.

>>>>

>>>> Mr. Cooper addressed the question of the journal and the CNN reports in his Friday evening<x-apple-data-detectors://4> broadcast. He disclosed the station had the journal and that some of the information he reported on Wednesday originated from Mr. Stevens's personal writings.

>>>>  
>>>> "Some of that information was found in a personal journal of Ambassador Stevens in his handwriting," Mr. Cooper told viewers. "We came upon the journal through our reporting and notified the family. At their request, we returned that journal to them. We reported what we found newsworthy in the ambassador's writings."

>>>>

>>>>

>>>> Sent from my iPhone

>>>>

>>>> On Sep 22, 2012, at 2:58 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

b6  
b7C

>>>>

>>>> In the meantime can you send me the whole story

>>>>

>>>>

>>>>

>>>> ----- Original Message -----

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

>>>> From: Entous, Adam [mailto:[REDACTED]]

>>>> Sent: Saturday, September 22, 2012 02:57 PM

>>>> To: [REDACTED]

>>>> Subject: Re: ON the Record

>>>>

>>>> Asking but that's not something I can control

>>>>

>>>> Sent from my iPhone

>>>>

>>>> On Sep 22, 2012, at 2:56 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

b6  
b7C

>>>>

>>>> Get it out from behind the pay wall!

>>>>

>>>>

>>>>

>>>> ----- Original Message -----

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

>>>> From: Entous, Adam [mailto:[REDACTED]]

>>>> Sent: Saturday, September 22, 2012 02:53 PM

>>>> To: [REDACTED]

>>>> Subject: Re: ON the Record

>>>>

>>>> Trying to get it appended to the bottom after the story posts.

>>>>

>>>> Sent from my iPhone

>>>>

>>>> On Sep 22, 2012, at 2:52 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

b6  
b7C

>>>>

>>>> Yes

>>>> Every single word is my preference/ideal And as we discussed, it was when you sought comment

>>>>

>>>>

>>>>

>>>> ----- Original Message -----

>>>> From: Entous, Adam [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
>>>> Sent: Saturday, September 22, 2012 02:50 PM  
>>>> To: [REDACTED]  
>>>> Subject: Re: ON the Record

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

>>>> Can I post this entire thing under the story?

>>>> Sent from my iPhone

>>>> On Sep 22, 2012, at 2:09 PM [REDACTED]

b6  
b7C

[REDACTED] wrote:

>>>> Given the truth of how this was handled, CNN patting themselves on the back is disgusting. What they're not owning up to is reading Chris's diary before bothering to tell the family they took it. But that's understandable since they needed enough time to read it, transcribe it, and circulate it internally for even more people to read. Who transcribes a diary of a man who just lost his life serving our country? When they finally called the family, their timing was impeccable, doing so only shortly right after they witnessed his remains return to the United States. Did this junior person say, 'Hello, I know this is a terrible time, but I'm sure you want your son's diary, where can we send it?' Nope. They instead took that moment to ask the family if CNN could report on its contents. Contents known only to Chris Stevens, and those CNN thought had already decided had a right to invade his privacy.

>>>>

>>>> When the seniormost levels of CNN were finally reached, they needed to be convinced to do the right thing. But not before they took a second shot at convincing the family to let them report on the contents. A family member made it crystal clear they wanted Chris's diary back and wouldn't make any decisions until then. But that wasn't fast enough for CNN, so they helpfully offered to send the family the transcript, to put a rush on it.

>>>>

>>>> It was then made clear to them, for what must have been the fourth time, that they wanted to look at it privately, together as a family before making any decisions. Period. Finally, CNN heard their request enough times, accepted it, and agreed to abide by the clear wishes of the Stevens family and pledged not to use the diary or even allude to its existence until hearing back from the family.

>>>>

>>>> But the Stevens family was never given that chance. I guess four days was as long as CNN could control themselves, so they just went ahead and used it. Entirely because they felt like it. Anderson Cooper didn't even bother to offer any other explanation as to why the network broke its promise. And only did so after being contacted by a reporter asking about the diary and their convoluted sourcing.

>>>>

>>>> Not a proud moment in CNN's history, and I'd hope that many of the good people who work there agree.

From: [redacted]  
Sent: Saturday, September 22, 2012 8:07 PM  
To: [redacted]  
Subject: Re: ON the Record

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b6  
b7C

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>

>

>

> ----- Original Message -----

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> Sent: Saturday, September 22, 2012 07:59 PM  
> To: [redacted]  
> Subject: Re: ON the Record

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

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> Sent from my iPhone

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b6  
b7C

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b6 Per DOS, FBI  
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And btw, they could have said this 48 hrs ago. Why not cite it to the diary from the beginning, to make the point on credibility

I've been doing this long enough to be able to tell when an organization doesn't know how to get out of a jam

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Ya. I would have said. With all due respect for your terrible loss -- and I have personally met with chris, albeit briefly, and appreciated what he was doing, but his concerns about security are relevant to the investigations now getting underway which are certainly a public interest.

Sent from my iPhone

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From: Entous, Adam [redacted]  
Sent: Saturday, September 22, 2012 8:04 PM  
To: [redacted]  
Subject: Re: ON the Record

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Follow Up Flag: Follow up  
Flag Status: Flagged

Ya. I would have said. With all due respect for your terrible loss -- and I have personally met with chris, albeit briefly, and appreciated what he was doing, but his concerns about security are relevant to the investigations now getting underway which are certainly a public interest.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 22, 2012, at 8:01 PM, [redacted] wrote:

b6  
b7C

> Ok, so then don't agree not to use it

>  
>  
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> From: Entous, Adam [mailto:[redacted]]  
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>>> byline-box

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>>> By Adam Entous

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b6 Per DOS, FBI  
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Subject: Re: ON the Record

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> byline-box

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The below doesn't even begin to describe how disgusting CNN's behavior has been over the last nine days. I'm betting you knew or met Chris Stevens, and agree that he should not have been used like this. It's not what his family wanted.

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The Wall Street Journal  
By Adam Entous And Keach Hagey  
Sat, Sep 22, 2012

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10000872396390443890304578012473529847226.html?mod=WSJ\\_hpp\\_LEFTTopStories](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10000872396390443890304578012473529847226.html?mod=WSJ_hpp_LEFTTopStories)

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###

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Saturday, September 22, 2012 5:13 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: CNN

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Howie -

I imagine given your close financial relationship with CNN you're not inclined to look into - let alone report on - their egregious behavior in this matter, as opposed to it happening at FOX or MSNBC, so I'm passing it along for you to decide:

CNN Used Slain Envoy's Writings Against Family's Wishes  
The Wall Street Journal  
By Adam Entous And Keach Hagey  
Sat, Sep 22, 2012

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10000872396390443890304578012473529847226.html?mod=WSJ\\_hpp\\_LEFTTopStories](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10000872396390443890304578012473529847226.html?mod=WSJ_hpp_LEFTTopStories)

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###

From: [redacted]  
Sent: Saturday, September 22, 2012 3:26 PM  
To: [redacted]  
Cc: [redacted]  
Subject: Re: WSJ

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Thank you - after I emailed you guys they pulled it out from behind the paywall

----- Original Message -----

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

From: Val Markovic [mailto:[redacted]]  
Sent: Saturday, September 22, 2012 03:24 PM  
To: [redacted]  
Cc: [redacted]  
Subject: Re: WSJ

Hi [redacted]

Here is the article. It appears to be available online without a log-in. If there is anything else we can do for you, please let me know.

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By ADAM ENTOUS And KEACH HAGEY

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Best,  
Val

----- Original Message -----

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Saturday, September 22, 2012 2:57:05 PM  
Subject: WSJ

b6  
b7c

I know you guys don't have the license, but do you at least have a login or access to pull this for me?

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10000872396390443890304578012473529847226.html?mod=WSJ\\_hpp\\_LE\\_FTTStories](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10000872396390443890304578012473529847226.html?mod=WSJ_hpp_LE_FTTStories)

From: Val Markovic [REDACTED]  
Sent: Saturday, September 22, 2012 3:25 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Re: WSJ

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

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Sent: Saturday, September 22, 2012 2:57:05 PM

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b6  
b7C

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From: [redacted]  
Sent: Saturday, September 22, 2012 3:13 PM  
To: Tara Palmeri  
Subject: Re: P6

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Thank you

Given the keen interest Page Six has always had in CNN & Anderson Cooper in particular, I thought they might find this interesting, especially since it's coming from another Murdoch property.

I'm in NYC next week for UNGA - you around?

[redacted]  
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b6  
b7C

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###

-----Original Message-----

From: Tara Palmeri

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: P6

Sent: Sep 22, 2012 9:35 AM

b6  
b7C

Hey! No worries. How are you? When will you be in nyc?

You can send it to me and I can try to get it in for you. If not [REDACTED] at

[REDACTED] but she's not always the most responsive.

b6 Per DOS

Best,  
Tara

----- Original Message -----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, September 21, 2012 11:14 PM

To: Palmeri, Tara; Tara Palmeri [REDACTED]

Subject: P6

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Hi there

Sorry to intrude on a Friday night after not being in touch for so long, but wondering who you recommend I go to to shop an item to Page 6

From: [redacted]  
Sent: Saturday, September 22, 2012 3:10 PM  
To: [redacted]  
Cc: [redacted]  
Subject: Network Ethics

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Hi Ari

You've been doing the Lord's work in calling out the press for egregious behavior, to great effect - I think Helen Thomas would agree.

I know they're your sorta employer, but this has been a disgusting episode. I don't know if you ever worked with Chris Stevens, but he deserved to be treated better than this.

Thought even if you have to hold direct fire on them, some of your friends from your side of the aisle - people & places I'm not as familiar with - might be interested in seeing exactly what happened here with a network that might not be their channel of choice. I pasted the full story at bottom.

Hope you're well [redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

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###

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 5:00 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE PhoneTag from Restricted at 03:49PM 09/24/2012

b6  
b7C

**Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**SMARTCategory:** Working

The best part is the majority of comments question why he would ever publish this and say he is the one who looks crass and ridiculous.

Get ready for another CNN update. Wolf just said the Benghazi compound had a waiver allowing it to be under less security than normally required. Coming up after Cafferty

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 4:46 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: PhoneTag from Restricted at 03:49PM 09/24/2012

b6  
b7C

Well then...

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 04:44 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: PhoneTag from Restricted at 03:49PM 09/24/2012

b6  
b7C

Claire Atkinson from the NY Post Business Desk. Looking for on or off the record comment about the dispute with CNN and especially interested in your comments on Richard Davis (CNN VP of News Standards and Practices) who she thinks is the person that convinced everyone at CNN to use the diary. Email –

[REDACTED]

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 4:18 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Fw: PhoneTag from Restricted at 03:49PM 09/24/2012

Can you pls listen to this and decipher for me

----- Original Message -----

**From:** mailbox@my.simulscribe.com [mailto:mailbox@my.simulscribe.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 03:54 PM

HRC-9569

To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: PhoneTag from Restricted at 03:49PM 09/24/2012

Hello [REDACTED] My name is Claire at Kimson. I'm an immediate reporter of the Neil post business task. I'm doing that you're on CNN and I understand you might be able to help, do the honor of record about Richard Davis. I believe it's a guy who fraction CNN to use the materials from the diaries. I know you're very upset about. If you could catch the call time at [REDACTED] Claire Kimson, New York Phase Business Staff [REDACTED] Thank you.

-----  
PhoneTag Voicemail Message#726211645 :  
-----

(?)= The word is spelled phonetically, usually happens with names and places.  
(??)= Sorry, we can't understand this word or portion of the message.

If you want to share this liberating experience with a friend, simply forward off this link, and you will both receive 30 days of free service upon their signup:  
<https://apps.simulscribe.com/signup/r/32903>

Thanks,  
Team PhoneTag

This email is UNCLASSIFIED

**From:** Michael Allen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 23, 2012 8:05 AM  
**Subject:** POLITICO Playbook, presented by Huawei -- 44 days to Nov. 6; 10 days to Debate 1; 100 days to fiscal cliff -- MITT: CAMPAIGN 'DOESN'T NEED TURNAROUND' -- How CNN knew late ambassador's thoughts -- J.K. Rowling adult novel, 'The Casual Vacancy,' out Thu.

b6 Per DOS

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**ROMNEY QUOTES WOODWARD in black-and-white ad out this a.m., "Mute Button." Male narrator:** "Bob Woodward, the Washington Post reporter who broke Watergate, recently wrote that during stimulus negotiations, President Obama called his Democratic leadership team -- Harry Reid, Nancy Pelosi. And as President Obama spoke, Nancy Pelosi hit the mute button. Went on with their meeting, ignoring the president. Not even listening to what he had to say. If he cannot lead his own party, how can he lead America?" **YouTube** <http://bit.ly/UFzfy9>

**--BACKSTORY:** Leader Pelosi, headlining a Playbook Breakfast in Charlotte, told us: "[T]hat didn't happen." Bob Woodward shared his documentation, in an email to Playbook: "The muting incident was called 'the Speakerphone episode' in the White House. From a taped background interview for 'The Price of Politics' with a senior Obama administration official who was in the room ... : 'There was a moment in Pelosi's office during the Recovery Act where we were [trying] to get the end game ... [T]he president called and was on a speakerphone, which Pelosi muted ... so that he couldn't hear them talking.'"

**STATE DEPT. ACCUSES CNN of "indefensible" invasion of privacy in its handling of the journal of Christopher Stevens, the late U.S. ambassador to Libya. CNN.com reported yesterday:** "Four days after he was killed, CNN found a journal belonging to late U.S. Ambassador to Libya Chris Stevens. The journal was found on the floor of the largely unsecured consulate compound where he was fatally wounded. CNN notified Stevens' family about the journal within hours after it was discovered and at the family's request provided it to them via a third party. The journal consists of just seven pages of handwriting in a hard-bound book. For CNN, the ambassador's writings served as tips about the situation in Libya, and in Benghazi in particular. CNN took the newsworthy tips and corroborated them with other sources."

**--Anderson Cooper reported Wednesday night on "Anderson Cooper 360":** "A source familiar with Ambassador Stevens' thinking says that in the months before his death, he talked about being worried about what he called the never-ending security threats specifically in Benghazi. This source telling us that the ambassador specifically mentioned the rise in Islamic extremism, the growing al Qaeda presence in Libya, and said he was on an al Qaeda hit list. ... What we don't yet know is why, given all that Ambassador Stevens thought, why he traveled with such an apparently light security detail, why he was allowed to?"

**--Cooper followed up Friday night:** "The information for that report, like all of CNN's reporting, was carefully vetted. Some of that information was found in a personal journal of ambassador Stevens in his handwriting. We came upon the journal through our reporting and notified the family. At their request, we returned that journal to them. We reported what we found newsworthy in the ambassador's writings. A reporter followed up on what we found newsworthy in the ambassador's writings."

**--Philippe Reines, senior adviser to Secretary of State Clinton:** "What [CNN is] not owning up to is reading and transcribing Chris's diary well before bothering to tell the family or anyone else that they took it from the site of the attack. Or that when they finally did tell them, they completely ignored the wishes of the family, and ultimately broke their pledge made to them only hours after they witnessed the return to the United States of Chris's remains. Whose first instinct is to remove from a crime scene the diary of a man killed along with three



other Americans serving our country, read it, transcribe it, email it around your newsroom for others to read, and only when their curiosity is fully satisfied thinks to call the family or notify the authorities?

**"When ... CNN called [the family], they didn't say, 'Hello, I know this is a terrible time, but I'm sure you want your son's diary, where do you want it sent?' They instead took the opportunity to ask the family if CNN could report on its contents. Contents known only to Chris Stevens, and those at CNN who had already invaded his privacy. When the senior-most levels of CNN were finally reached, ... they took a second shot at convincing the family to let them report on the contents. A family member made it crystal clear directly to CNN that they wanted Chris's diary and would not make any other decisions until then. But that wasn't fast enough for CNN, so they helpfully offered to send the family the transcript they'd already made and passed around, to put a rush on it for their own purposes.**

**"It was then made clear to them, for what must have been the fourth time in the same call, that they wanted to look at it privately, together as a family before making any decisions. Period. CNN finally heard their request enough times that they had to accept it, agreed to abide by the clear wishes of the Stevens family, and pledged not to use the diary or even allude to its existence until hearing back from the family. But the Stevens family was never given that chance. I guess four days was as long as CNN could control themselves, so they just went ahead and used it. Entirely because they felt like it. Anderson Cooper didn't even bother to offer any other explanation as to why the network broke its promise to the family. And only did so after being contacted by a reporter asking about the diary and their convoluted sourcing. How do they justify that? They have yet to even try to defend the indefensible."**

**--CNN statement: "CNN did not initially report on the existence of a journal out of respect for the family, but we felt there were issues raised in the journal which required full reporting, which we did. We think the public had a right to know what CNN had learned from multiple sources about the fears and warnings of a terror threat before the Benghazi attack which are now raising questions about why the State Department didn't do more to protect Ambassador Stevens and other US personnel. Perhaps the real question here is why is the State Department now attacking the messenger. ...**

**"The reason CNN ultimately reported Friday on the existence of the journal was because leaks to media organizations incorrectly suggested CNN had not quickly returned the journal, which we did. We reached out to the family of Ambassador Stevens within hours of retrieving the journal and returned it through a third party, within less than 24 hours from the time we found it. Out of respect to the family, we have not quoted from or shown the journal."**

**--Drudge banner: "DEAD AMBASSADOR'S DIARY REVEALS THREAT WORRY"**

**DEWEY SQUARE COMBINES WITH H+K, per an email from Jack Martin, global chairman and CEO of Hill+Knowlton Strategies, posted by National Journal: "Dewey Square Group (DSG) will become a Hill+Knowlton Strategies company. DSG, one of our sister companies that became part of WPP Group in 2006, will maintain its own brand and continue to operate under its current leadership. ... Joe Eyer, director of DSG's grassroots practice, will become head of H+K's global public affairs practice. Joe ... served as deputy campaign manager ... for Senator Joe Lieberman's presidential campaign [and] was an integral part of former Vice President Al Gore's political operation ... I have known DSG's founder and chairman, Chuck Campion, for many years, and I would like to welcome him and the rest of the Dewey Square Group team to the H+K family."**

**PAUL RYAN busted out a four-slide PowerPoint at yesterday's town hall in Orlando: "Our Unsustainable Debt (U.S. Debt Held by Public as a Shade of Economy)" ... "Your Share of the Debt" ... "Who Funds Our Reckless Spending?" ["Foreign Holdings": 48%!] ... "How the Government Spends Your Money." See the slides. <http://bit.ly/RJRjZ7>**

**DRIVING THE DAY** – Tonight on “60 Minutes,” President Obama talks to Steve Kroft and Mitt Romney talks to Scott Pelley. “60” released a preview of Romney: “[W]e’re tied in the polls. We’re all within the margin of error. We bounce around -- week to week, day to day.”

**PELLEY:** “You’re the CEO of this campaign. A lot of Republicans would like to know, a lot of your donors would like to know, how do you turn this thing around? You’ve got a little more than six weeks. What do you do?”

**ROMNEY:** “Well, it doesn’t need a turnaround. We’ve got a campaign which is tied with an incumbent President to the United States.”

**PELLEY:** “[A] lot of people were concerned about the video of the fundraiser in which you talked about the 47 percent of the American people who don’t pay taxes.”

**ROMNEY:** “[T]hat’s not the campaign. That was me, right? ... I’ve got a very effective campaign. It’s doing a very good job. But not everything I say is elegant.”

**BREAKING THROUGH:** Seth Meyers on “Weekend Update” on “Saturday Night Live”: “The 14 percent tax rate Romney paid is LESS than the 20 percent paid by the average American. How did he pay such a low rate? He claimed 47 percent of Americans as dependents.” [Laughter] *Video* <http://bit.ly/UfkIIY>

**THE JUICE** – N.Y. Times col. 1, “AN EVANGELICAL BACK FROM EXILE, LIFTING ROMNEY – REED SEES AN OPENING,” by Jo Becker in Duluth, Ga.: “Ralph Reed is clearly relishing his revival. ... [S]oon he plans to unleash a sophisticated, microtargeted get-out-the-evangelical-vote operation that he believes could nudge open a margin of victory if Mr. Romney can keep the race close. The other day, ... the preternaturally youthful evangelical operative, 51, propped his black ostrich cowboy boots on a coffee table and made what he admits seems an audacious prediction: that record numbers of socially conservative evangelical Protestants will turn out for the first presidential election in history without a Protestant on the Republican ticket. ‘God,’ he said with a laugh, ‘has a sense of humor.’ ...

“Reed has ... \$10 million to \$12 million from contributors across the Republican spectrum ... Three years ago, Mr. Reed formed the Faith and Freedom Coalition and began assembling what he calls the largest-ever database of reliably conservative religious voters. In the coming weeks, he says, each of those 17.1 million registered voters in 15 key states will receive three phone calls and at least three pieces of mail. Seven million of them will get e-mail and text messages. Two million will be visited by one of more than 5,000 volunteers. Over 25 million voter guides will be distributed in 117,000 churches.” <http://nyti.ms/PWwN1G>

**BEHIND THE CURTAIN** -- WashPost 1-col. lead, “Romney team is defiant, realistic: ‘RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS’ -- Advisers see a rush to judgment on campaign,” by Dan Balz and Philip Rucker: “The mood around Romney’s Boston campaign headquarters ... is defiantly upbeat ... ‘Given everything we’ve gone through, everybody wants to count this guy out,’ said Neil Newhouse, Romney campaign’s pollster. ‘And yet the poll numbers don’t do that. The poll numbers put him right in the middle of this.’ ... Some Romney advisers acknowledge that the burden is on the candidate and those around him to quiet doubters inside their own party and elsewhere, and to demonstrate that they have a compelling message, along with a strategy and the discipline to execute it. ... ‘I’m realistic that Romney’s had a couple of bad weeks, but there’s lots of time for him to recover,’ said a senior Obama adviser ... ‘I don’t want to give them message advice,’ said one Obama adviser, ‘but I think what’s hurt them most is they haven’t given voters any reason to vote for Romney. The question is: Is it too late?’ ...

“Romney plans to hammer ... China ‘cheating,’ an aggressive stance his strategists believe will help him in Ohio and across the industrial Midwest. .... [I]n Northern Virginia, ... Romney is trying to close a deficit ... among female voters by stressing debt and government spending issues. The campaign is airing an ad, ‘Dear Daughter,’ featuring a mother talking to her newborn about her share of the federal debt, and advisers said

similar ads are scheduled in the weeks to come. ... 'We're going to stay on it and keep pounding it,' [Romney senior adviser Ed] Gillespie said. 'It may not be that it breaks through so much as it penetrates.'" <http://wapo.st/OjAV0r>

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**AIR WAR – Boston Sunday Globe A1, "Election spending on local TV surges: Amounts so far significantly above total for 2008 races," by Erin Ailworth:** "Candidates, the groups that support them, and other special interest organizations have shelled out about \$46 million on TV ads in Massachusetts this year — compared with \$27.5 million in all of 2008 ... [Bruce Mittman, president of Mittcom, a Boston advertising and marketing agency] estimated that the US Senate race in Massachusetts between Scott Brown and Elizabeth Warren has accounted for roughly half the money spent in the Boston television market, while the Obama campaign and its related special interests groups has probably doled out about \$12 million to \$14 million on Massachusetts stations to reach New Hampshire voters ... The Romney campaign and associated groups, Mittman figured, has probably spent \$6 million to \$7 million. ... Little money from third-party political advocacy groups has flowed into the Senate race since [Scott] Brown and [Elizabeth] Warren in January pledged to keep such groups from advertising on their behalf. ...

**"Earlier this month, the conservative YG Action Fund began a \$799,000 television ad campaign against embattled US Representative John Tierney, who is running for reelection against Republican Richard R. Tisei.** Tierney has come under scrutiny since his brother-in-law was linked to a gambling ring, and Tierney's wife pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting in the filing of false tax returns. ... The ads — nearly 400 of them — focus on the illegal gambling business run by Tierney's brother-in law, and were scheduled to run during football games and other programming through last week. .... Obama's reelection campaign has bought ads on all the major local Boston stations ... as well as at WMUR-TV Channel 9 in New Hampshire — dropping thousands and tens of thousands on each contract. ... Romney has eschewed the Boston stations so far, but has purchased ads at WMUR." *Behind pay wall*

**COMING ATTRACTIONS -- The New Yorker, "Profiles: MUGGLEMARCH -- J. K. Rowling writes a realist novel for adults," by Ian Parker:** "In the spring, nearly five years after the appearance of the seventh, and final, Harry Potter novel, Little, Brown, Rowling's publisher, announced 'The Casual Vacancy,' and offered a glimpse of the plot: an idyllic English town named Pagford; the death of a man named Barry; a parish-council election. ... 'I have drawn a map of Pagford,' Rowling told me when we met, in late August. 'It's one of the first things I did.' We were not speaking in her Edinburgh house, or at her country place ... or in her home in an expensive part of west London. We were at her office, which occupies an unmarked Georgian building on a handsome street in central Edinburgh ... The office has high ceilings, Turkish rugs over wooden floors, figurative oil paintings by modern Scottish artists, and the air of a small but very well-funded embassy. According to the London Sunday Times, Rowling is worth nine hundred million dollars. ... (Neil Blair, her agent, told me, "She takes a lot of time getting it right and then hands in a book that doesn't need much editing.") ...

**"I read 'The Casual Vacancy,' which is five hundred and twelve pages long, in the New York offices of Little, Brown, after signing a non-disclosure agreement ... Within a few pages, it was clear that the novel had not been written for children: 'The leathery skin of her upper cleavage radiated little cracks that no longer vanished when decompressed.' A little later, a lustful boy sits on a school bus 'with an ache in his heart and in**

his balls.' But reviewers looking for echoes of the Harry Potter series will find them. 'The Casual Vacancy' describes young people coming of age in a place divided by warring factions, and the deceased council member, Barry Fairbrother, ... had the same virtues, in his world, that Harry had in his: tolerance, constancy, a willingness to act. 'I think there is a through-line,' Rowling said. 'Mortality, morality, the two things that I obsess about.' 'The Casual Vacancy' is ... a rural comedy of manners that ... builds into black melodrama. ... Most of the families include troubled teens. Barry's civic influence is revealed by his departure, rather as George Bailey's is in 'It's a Wonderful Life.' ...

**"This is a story of class warfare set amid semi-rural poverty, heroin addiction, and teen-age perplexity and sexuality. It may be a while before we're accustomed to reading phrases like 'that miraculously unguarded vagina' in a Rowling book, and public response to 'The Casual Vacancy' will doubtless include scandalized objections to the idea of young Harry Potter readers being drawn into such material. 'There is no part of me that feels that I represented myself as your children's babysitter or their teacher,' Rowling said. 'I was always, I think, completely honest. I'm a writer, and I will write what I want to write. ... It's been billed, slightly, as a black comedy, but to me it's more of a comic tragedy ... In my head, the working title for a long time was 'Responsible,' because for me this is a book about responsibility.' ...**

**"Two years in, she picked up the standard British handbook for local administrators. 'I needed it to check certain abstruse points. And in there I came across the phrase "a casual vacancy." Meaning, when a seat falls vacant through death or scandal. And immediately I knew that that was the title. ... I was dealing not only with responsibility but with a bunch of characters who all have these little vacancies in their lives, these emptinesses in their lives, that they're all filling in various ways. ... And it's death ... the casualness with which death comes down. You expect a fanfare, you expect some sort of pathos or grandeur to it. ... [T]he first big death I ever suffered was my mother's, and it was that that was so shocking: just gone.'" <http://nyr.kr/RLIzS4>**

**ABOUT LAST NIGHT:** A low-key Chicago b'day for Obama for America's Sharon Yang -- and sendoff for newly minted Chillicothe, Ohio, comms director Frank Benenati. Sushi Benenati is looking forward to another Midwestern move. **SPOTTED:** Hari Sevugan, Kara Carscaden, Rachel Racusen, Ben LaBolt, Matt Bevens, Tom Reynolds, Lis Smith, Jacob Leibenluft, Aaron Sherman, Peter Bondi and many others. (*hat tip: Frank B.*)

**BIRTHDAYS:** tri-athlete Daisy Hanna Schuurman (*hat tips: Lily, Lucy, Nora*) ... Maria Karl (*hat tips: Emily, Anna*) ... Sean Spicer, RNC communications director, who celebrated last night with his wife, Rebecca, by having drinks at Juleanna Glover's with Blain Rethmeier, Jake Tapper, Erik Smith and others ... Nick Everhart of Strategy Group Media (*hat tips: Burns, Hohmann*) ... Close Up Foundation's Maura O'Brien ... Rhode Island Republican Assembly's William Ricci ... U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay (*hat tips: Patrick Gavin*) ... Mickey Rooney is 92 ... Julio Iglesias is 69 ... Bruce Springsteen is 63 (*h/ts AP*)

**BIRTHDAY TOMORROW:** Will Boother is 31 (*hat tip: Sean Miles*) ... Jason Putorti, co-founder, Votizen ... proud Horned Frog Courtney Jay of CBS' Face the Nation turns 24, celebrating tonight with friends and family at Local 16. (*Horned Frog tips: Bob Schieffer, Andrea Drusch, Allison Branca*) ... **TUESDAY:** Dena Kozanas, legislative director for Rep. Candice Miller (*h/t Tim Murtaugh*)

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**From:** Mike Allen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 23, 2012 8:16 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** POLITICO Playbook, presented by Huawei -- 44 days to Nov. 6; 10 days to Debate 1; 100 days to fiscal cliff -- MITT: CAMPAIGN 'DOESN'T NEED TURNAROUND' -- How CNN knew late ambassador's thoughts -- J.K. Rowling adult novel, 'The Casual Vacancy,' out Thu.

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

ROMNEY QUOTES WOODWARD in black-and-white ad out this a.m., "Mute Button." Male narrator: "Bob Woodward, the Washington Post reporter who broke Watergate, recently wrote that during stimulus negotiations, President Obama called his Democratic leadership team -- Harry Reid, Nancy Pelosi. And as President Obama spoke, Nancy Pelosi hit the mute button. Went on with their meeting, ignoring the president. Not even listening to what he had to say. If he cannot lead his own party, how can he lead America?" YouTube <http://bit.ly/UFzfy9>

--BACKSTORY: Leader Pelosi, headlining a Playbook Breakfast in Charlotte, told us: "[T]hat didn't happen." Bob Woodward shared his documentation, in an email to Playbook: "The muting incident was called 'the Speakerphone episode' in the White House. From a taped background interview for 'The Price of Politics' with a senior Obama administration official who was in the room ... : 'There was a moment in Pelosi's office during the Recovery Act where we were [trying] to get the end game ... [T]he president called and was on a speakerphone, which Pelosi muted ... so that he couldn't hear them talking.'"

STATE DEPT. ACCUSES CNN of "indefensible" invasion of privacy in its handling of the journal of Christopher Stevens, the late U.S. ambassador to Libya. CNN.com reported yesterday: "Four days after he was killed, CNN found a journal belonging to late U.S. Ambassador to Libya Chris Stevens. The journal was found on the floor of the largely unsecured consulate compound where he was fatally wounded. CNN notified Stevens' family about the journal within hours after it was discovered and at the family's request provided it to them via a third party. The journal consists of just seven pages of handwriting in a hard-bound book. For CNN, the ambassador's writings served as tips about the situation in Libya, and in Benghazi in particular. CNN took the newsworthy tips and corroborated them with other sources."

--Anderson Cooper reported Wednesday night on "Anderson Cooper 360°": "A source familiar with Ambassador Stevens' thinking says that in the months before his death, he talked about being worried about what he called the never-ending security threats specifically in Benghazi. This source telling us that the ambassador specifically mentioned the rise in Islamic extremism, the growing al Qaeda presence in Libya, and said he was on an al Qaeda hit list. ... What we don't yet know is why, given all that Ambassador Stevens thought, why he traveled with such an apparently light security detail, why he was allowed to?"

--Cooper followed up Friday night: "The information for that report, like all of CNN's reporting, was carefully vetted. Some of that information was found in a personal journal of ambassador Stevens in his handwriting. We came upon the journal through our reporting and notified the family. At their request, we returned that journal to them. We reported what we found newsworthy in the ambassador's writings. A reporter followed up on what we found newsworthy in the ambassador's writings."

--Philippe Reines, senior adviser to Secretary of State Clinton: "What [CNN is] not owning up to is reading and transcribing Chris's diary well before bothering to tell the family or anyone else that they took it from the site of the attack. Or that when they finally did tell them, they completely ignored the wishes of the family, and ultimately broke their pledge made to them only hours after they witnessed the return to the United States of Chris's remains. Whose first instinct is to remove from a crime scene the diary of a man killed along with three other Americans serving our country, read it, transcribe it, email it around your newsroom for others to read, and only when their curiosity is fully satisfied thinks to call the family or notify the authorities?"

"When ... CNN called [the family], they didn't say, 'Hello, I know this is a terrible time, but I'm sure you want your son's diary, where do you want it sent?' They instead took the opportunity to ask the family if CNN could report on its contents. Contents known only to Chris Stevens, and those at CNN who had already invaded his privacy. When the senior-most levels of CNN were finally reached, ... they took a second shot at convincing the family to let them report on the contents. A family member made it crystal clear directly to CNN that they wanted Chris's diary and would not make any other decisions until then. But that wasn't fast enough for CNN, so they helpfully offered to send the family the transcript they'd already made and passed around, to put a rush on it for their own purposes.

"It was then made clear to them, for what must have been the fourth time in the same call, that they wanted to look at it privately, together as a family before making any decisions. Period. CNN finally heard their request enough times that they had to accept it, agreed to abide by the clear wishes of the Stevens family, and pledged not to use the diary or even allude to its existence until hearing back from the family. But the Stevens family was never given that chance. I guess four days was as long as CNN could control themselves, so they just went ahead and used it. Entirely because they felt like it. Anderson Cooper didn't even bother to offer any other explanation as to why the network broke its promise to the family. And only did so after being contacted by a reporter asking about the diary and their convoluted sourcing. How do they justify that? They have yet to even try to defend the indefensible."

--CNN statement: "CNN did not initially report on the existence of a journal out of respect for the family, but we felt there were issues raised in the journal which required full reporting, which we did. We think the public had a right to know what CNN had learned from multiple sources about the fears and warnings of a terror threat before the Benghazi attack which are now raising questions about why the State Department didn't do more to protect Ambassador Stevens and other US personnel. Perhaps the real question here is why is the State Department now attacking the messenger. ... "The reason CNN ultimately reported Friday on the existence of the journal was because leaks to media organizations incorrectly suggested CNN had not quickly returned the journal, which we did. We reached out to the family of Ambassador Stevens within hours of retrieving the journal and returned it through a third party, within less than 24 hours from the time we found it. Out of respect to the family, we have not quoted from or shown the journal."

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(Neil Blair, her agent, told me, "She takes a lot of time getting it right and then hands in a book that doesn't need much editing.") ... "I read 'The Casual Vacancy,' which is five hundred and twelve pages long, in the New York offices of Little, Brown, after signing a non-disclosure agreement ... Within a few pages, it was clear that the novel had not been written for children: 'The leathery skin of her upper cleavage radiated little cracks that no longer vanished when decompressed.' A little later, a lustful boy sits on a school bus 'with an ache in his heart and in his balls.' But reviewers looking for echoes of the Harry Potter series will find them. 'The Casual Vacancy' describes young people coming of age in a place divided by warring factions, and the deceased council member, Barry Fairbrother, ... had the same virtues, in his world, that Harry had in his: tolerance, constancy, a willingness to act. 'I think there is a through-line,' Rowling said. 'Mortality, morality, the two things that I obsess about.' 'The Casual Vacancy' is ... a rural comedy of manners that ... builds into black melodrama. ... Most of the families include troubled teens. Barry's civic influence is revealed by his departure, rather as George Bailey's is in 'It's a Wonderful Life.' ... "This is a story of class warfare set amid semi-rural poverty, heroin addiction, and teen-age perplexity and sexuality. It may be a while before we're accustomed to reading phrases like 'that miraculously unguarded vagina' in a Rowling book, and public response to 'The Casual Vacancy' will doubtless include scandalized objections to the idea of young Harry Potter readers being drawn into such material. 'There is no part of me that feels that I represented myself as your children's babysitter or their teacher,' Rowling said. 'I was always, I think, completely honest. I'm a writer, and I will write what I want to write. ... It's been billed, slightly, as a black comedy, but to me it's more of a comic tragedy ... In my head, the working title for a long time was 'Responsible,' because for me this is a book about responsibility.' ... "Two years in, she picked up the standard British handbook for local administrators. 'I needed it to check certain abstruse points. And in there I came across the phrase "a casual vacancy." Meaning, when a seat falls vacant through death or scandal. And immediately I knew that that was the title. . . . I was dealing not only with responsibility but with a bunch of characters who all have these little vacancies in their lives, these emptinesses in their lives, that they're all filling in various ways. ... And it's death ... the casualness with which



death comes down. You expect a fanfare, you expect some sort of pathos or grandeur to it. ... [T]he first big death I ever suffered was my mother's, and it was that that was so shocking: just gone.'" <http://nyr.kr/RLIzS4> ABOUT LAST NIGHT: A low-key Chicago b'day for Obama for America's Sharon Yang -- and sendoff for newly minted Chillicothe, Ohio, comms director Frank Benenati. Sushi Benenati is looking forward to another Midwestern move. SPOTTED: Hari Sevugan, Kara Carscaden, Rachel Racusen, Ben LaBolt, Matt Bevens, Tom Reynolds, Lis Smith, Jacob Leibenluft, Aaron Sherman, Peter Bondi and many others. (hat tip: Frank B.) BIRTHDAYS: tri-athlete Daisy Hanna Schuurman (hat tips: Lily, Lucy, Nora) ... Maria Karl (hat tips: Emily, Anna) ... Sean Spicer, RNC communications director, who celebrated last night with his wife, Rebecca, by having drinks at Juleanna Glover's with Blain Rethmeier, Jake Tapper, Erik Smith and others ... Nick Everhart of Strategy Group Media (hat tips: Burns, Hohmann) ...Close Up Foundation's Maura O'Brien ... Rhode Island Republican Assembly's William Ricci ... U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay (hat tips: Patrick Gavin) ... Mickey Rooney is 92 ... Julio Iglesias is 69 ... Bruce Springsteen is 63 (h/ts AP) BIRTHDAY TOMORROW: Will Booher is 31 (hat tip: Sean Miles) ... Jason Putorti, co-founder, Votizen ... proud Horned Frog Courtney Jay of CBS' Face the Nation turns 24, celebrating tonight with friends and family at Local 16. (Horned Frog tips: Bob Schieffer, Andrea Drusch, Allison Branca) ... TUESDAY: Dena Kozanas, legislative director for Rep. Candice Miller (h/t Tim Murtaugh) \*\*A message from Huawei: We've put \$230 million into innovation in the U.S. and bought \$30 billion from U.S. suppliers. And that's just the beginning. Learn more at <http://usahuawei.com>[https://mymail.acc-email.com/owa/redir.aspx?C=F10JMzc9FkKF7fUMKFbM120nzslsbM8I01B0QUZzIErtF7s0SkhmMo0LBtWgn-GUo4RW6-Vbjc0.&URL=https%3a%2f%2fmymail.acc-email.com%2fowa%2fredir.aspx%3fc%3dCVdoKaT5rk00HWJCQ\\_pi2aYl\\_nEOa88INHZvQjwUTbWF93w7HrYPakiC6C\\_yhho8pu7eEXgVfopQ.%26URL%3dhttp%253a%252f%252fusahuawei.com%252f](https://mymail.acc-email.com/owa/redir.aspx?C=F10JMzc9FkKF7fUMKFbM120nzslsbM8I01B0QUZzIErtF7s0SkhmMo0LBtWgn-GUo4RW6-Vbjc0.&URL=https%3a%2f%2fmymail.acc-email.com%2fowa%2fredir.aspx%3fc%3dCVdoKaT5rk00HWJCQ_pi2aYl_nEOa88INHZvQjwUTbWF93w7HrYPakiC6C_yhho8pu7eEXgVfopQ.%26URL%3dhttp%253a%252f%252fusahuawei.com%252f) \*\*

**From:** Mike Allen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 23, 2012 8:24 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** State: CNN 'indefensible' on ambassador diary

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0912/81563.html>

State: CNN 'indefensible' on ambassador diary  
By: Mike Allen  
September 23, 2012 08:22 AM EDT

The State Department - in a harsh, detailed statement - is accusing CNN of an "indefensible" invasion of the privacy of Christopher Stevens, the late U.S. ambassador to Libya, after finding his seven-page journal in the consulate where he was killed.

CNN fired back by saying that the State Department may be "attacking the messenger" because of "questions about why the State Department didn't do more to protect Ambassador Stevens."

CNN.com reported on Saturday: "Four days after he was killed, CNN found a journal belonging to late U.S. Ambassador to Libya Chris Stevens. The journal was found on the floor of the largely unsecured consulate compound where he was fatally wounded. CNN notified Stevens' family about the journal within hours after it was discovered and at the family's request provided it to them via a third party. The journal consists of just seven pages of handwriting in a hard-bound book."

It turns out that the late ambassador's writings were the genesis of a reporting by CNN's Anderson Cooper on Wednesday night on his program, "Anderson Cooper 360°": "A source familiar with Ambassador Stevens' thinking says that in the months before his death, he talked about being worried about what he called the never-ending security threats specifically in Benghazi. This source telling us that the ambassador specifically mentioned the rise in Islamic extremism, the growing Al Qaeda presence in Libya, and said he was on an Al Qaeda hit list."

Cooper pulled back the curtain on Friday night: "Some of that information was found in a personal journal of Ambassador Stevens in his handwriting. We came upon the journal through our reporting and notified the family. At their request, we returned that journal to them. We reported what we found newsworthy in the ambassador's writings. A reporter followed up on what we found newsworthy in the ambassador's writings."

Philippe Reines, senior adviser to Secretary of State Clinton said in a statement to POLITICO: "What [CNN is] not owning up to is reading and transcribing Chris's diary well before bothering to tell the family or anyone else that they took it from the site of the attack. Or that when they finally did tell them, they completely ignored the wishes of the family, and ultimately broke their pledge made to them only hours after they witnessed the return to the United States of Chris's remains. Whose first instinct is to remove from a crime scene the diary of a man killed along with three other Americans serving our country, read it, transcribe it, email it around your newsroom for others to read, and only when their curiosity is fully satisfied thinks to call the family or notify the authorities?"

"When ... CNN called [the family], they didn't say, 'Hello, I know this is a terrible time, but I'm sure you want your son's diary, where do you want it sent?' They instead took the

opportunity to ask the family if CNN could report on its contents. Contents known only to Chris Stevens, and those at CNN who had already invaded his privacy. When the senior-most levels of CNN were finally reached, ... they took a second shot at convincing the family to let them report on the contents. A family member made it crystal clear directly to CNN that they wanted Chris's diary and would not make any other decisions until then. But that wasn't fast enough for CNN, so they helpfully offered to send the family the transcript they'd already made and passed around, to put a rush on it for their own purposes.

"It was then made clear to them, for what must have been the fourth time in the same call, that they wanted to look at it privately, together as a family before making any decisions. Period. CNN finally heard their request enough times that they had to accept it, agreed to abide by the clear wishes of the Stevens family, and pledged not to use the diary or even allude to its existence until hearing back from the family. But the Stevens family was never given that chance. I guess four days was as long as CNN could control themselves, so they just went ahead and used it. Entirely because they felt like it. Anderson Cooper didn't even bother to offer any other explanation as to why the network broke its promise to the family. And only did so after being contacted by a reporter asking about the diary and their convoluted sourcing. How do they justify that? They have yet to even try to defend the indefensible."

CNN replied in a statement: "CNN did not initially report on the existence of a journal out of respect for the family, but we felt there were issues raised in the journal which required full reporting, which we did. We think the public had a right to know what CNN had learned from multiple sources about the fears and warnings of a terror threat before the Benghazi attack which are now raising questions about why the State Department didn't do more to protect Ambassador Stevens and other U.S. personnel. Perhaps the real question here is why is the State Department now attacking the messenger. ...

"The reason CNN ultimately reported Friday on the existence of the journal was because leaks to media organizations incorrectly suggested CNN had not quickly returned the journal, which we did. We reached out to the family of Ambassador Stevens within hours of retrieving the journal and returned it through a third party, within less than 24 hours from the time we found it. Out of respect to the family, we have not quoted from or shown the journal."

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Saturday, September 22, 2012 3:07 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc:  
Subject: WSJ. CNN Used Slain Envoy's Writings Against Family's Wishes

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

- CNN Used Slain Envoy's Writings Against Family's Wishes
- 

CNN obtained a personal journal that belonged to the slain American ambassador to Libya, Christopher Stevens, and broadcast reports based on its contents against the wishes of the Stevens family, according to relatives and State Department officials who were asked to intervene by the family.

CNN obtained the journal in Benghazi, where Mr. Stevens and three other Americans were killed in an attack by militants on the American consulate in the city on Sept. 11. It wasn't clear exactly how CNN obtained the ambassador's writings.

The episode marks a side drama in the aftermath of the consulate siege and highlights questions news organizations can encounter when they come across evidence also being sought by law enforcement or other government officials. Personal material important to surviving relatives represents an even-more delicate and unusual dilemma.

CNN said on its website that it notified the Stevens family "within hours" that it had the journal. But the Stevens family then reached out to the State Department, which arranged a telephone conference call between members of the Stevens family and CNN. In that call, the family personally appealed to the news organization to return the journal and to not publish or broadcast any of its contents, according to a Stevens family member and State Department officials.

The family told CNN during the call that it wanted to review the journal before the news media used it or alluded to it, saying the ambassador's personal writings belonged to them.

Family members said they knew Mr. Stevens kept a diary but didn't know what was in the journal obtained by CNN. The news organization initially provided the family with a transcript it prepared from the journal.

State Department officials said they then made arrangements for CNN to hand over the diary itself to an Italian diplomat in Benghazi.

The State Department enlisted the aid of the Italian envoy because U.S. diplomats evacuated the city after the Sept. 11 attack. The State Department had arranged for the Italian diplomat to safeguard the diary until it could be handed over to American officials in Tripoli. It will then be brought to the U.S., where the family will be able to take possession of it.

Family members and State Department officials said CNN agreed during the Sept. 14 conference call to hold off on using the diary until the family had a chance to review its contents.

But family members and U.S. officials were surprised when CNN anchor Anderson Cooper appeared to use the information from the journal by attributing it to a source familiar with Mr. Stevens's thinking.

In that broadcast, Mr. Cooper said the ambassador was worried about security threats in Benghazi and said he believed he was on an al Qaeda hit list.

A spokesperson for CNN said the network didn't report directly from the journal, but corroborated the information through other sources.

Mr. Cooper addressed the question of the journal and the CNN reports in his Friday evening broadcast. He disclosed the station had the journal and that some of the information he reported on Wednesday originated from Mr. Stevens's personal writings.

"Some of that information was found in a personal journal of Ambassador Stevens in his handwriting," Mr. Cooper told viewers. "We came upon the journal through our reporting and notified the family. At their request, we returned that journal to them. We reported what we found newsworthy in the ambassador's writings."

Write to Adam Entous at [adam.entous@wsj.com](mailto:adam.entous@wsj.com)

From: [redacted]  
Sent: Saturday, September 22, 2012 3:16 PM  
To: [redacted]  
Subject: Diary

b6  
b7C

For anyone in NEA or elsewhere you think will be as disgusted by this as we all are.

CNN Used Slain Envoy's Writings Against Family's Wishes

The Wall Street Journal  
By Adam Entous, And Keach Hagey  
Sat, Sep 22, 2012

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10000872396390443890304578012473529847226.html?mod=WSJ\\_hpp\\_LEFTTopStories](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10000872396390443890304578012473529847226.html?mod=WSJ_hpp_LEFTTopStories)

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###

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Saturday, September 22, 2012 3:20 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: Diary

b6  
b7c

Thanks. Will pass along.

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Saturday, September 22, 2012 3:16 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Diary

For anyone in NEA or elsewhere you think will be as disgusted by this as we all are.

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The Wall Street Journal  
By Adam Entous And Keach Hagey  
Sat, Sep 22, 2012

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10000872396390443890304578012473529847226.html?mod=WSJ\\_hpp\\_LEFTTopStories](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10000872396390443890304578012473529847226.html?mod=WSJ_hpp_LEFTTopStories)

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###

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**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 27, 2012 8:32 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: into first story

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Hey  
Cheryl & I bugged out, but we're stuck on the 8pm shuttle that's not going anywhere  
We've just been paring the embassy staff down further, it's not correlated to anything specific - other than the obvious.

---

**From:** Summers, Pat [mailto:[redacted]]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 27, 2012 05:51 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** Fw: into first story

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b7C Per FBI

Hey man, how are ya? Where are you? I'm in NY Fox is pool. Oh - and I have HRC dancing to give you! We put it on a flash-drive for you. Hey any chance you could give me anything on this story below? Fox going crazy for it...

---

**From:** Baier, Bret  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 27, 2012 05:49 PM  
**To:** Fishel, Justin; 169 -SPECIAL REPORT  
**Subject:** RE: into first story

More details in this one:

**BC-LIBYA-USA/EMBASSY (URGENT)**

**U.S. temporarily reduces more staff from Libya embassy**

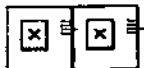
NEW YORK, Sept 27 (Reuters) - The United States is temporarily withdrawing more staff from its embassy in Libya's capital for security reasons, but hopes to return them to Tripoli early next week, the U.S. State Department said on Thursday.

"This is a temporary further drawdown of staff for security reasons. We will review our posture again early next week with the goal of restoring staff as soon as conditions allow," a State Department official said in New York, where Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is attending the U.N. General Assembly.

The senior official declined to say how many staff were  
being withdrawn or discuss specifics.

U.S. Ambassador to Libya Christopher Stevens and three other  
Americans were killed during what Washington has called a  
terrorist attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi on Sept. 11.

**Bret Baier**  
**Anchor, "Special Report with Bret Baier"**  
**Fox News Channel**



---

**From:** Fishel, Justin  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 27, 2012 5:47 PM  
**To:** Baier, Bret; 169 -SPECIAL REPORT  
**Subject:** RE: into first story

I've checked with two senior state dept officials and so far nothing- one said it didn't ring any bells. They are looking into it. Standby.

---

**From:** Baier, Bret  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 27, 2012 5:33 PM  
**To:** 169 -SPECIAL REPORT; Fishel, Justin  
**Subject:** into first story

Can we confirm..

**BC-U.S. TEMPORARILY WITHDRAWING MORE STAFF FROM EMBASSY IN TRIPOLI,**

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**LIBYA, FOR SECURITY REASONS, HOPES TO RESTORE THEM NEXT WEEK -**

**STATE DEPARTMENT**

**Bret Baier**  
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**Fox News Channel**

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**From:** Summers, Pat [redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 27, 2012 8:56 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: into first story

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Copy - that's sort of what I figured. Doing my best to get people at Fox in off the ledge on that story!!! And seriously - I have the Clinton dancing stuff for you, next time I'm over there I'll drop it off.

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**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 27, 2012 08:31 PM  
**To:** Summers, Pat  
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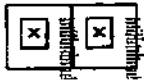
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reasons. We will review our posture again early next week with the goal of restoring staff as soon as conditions allow," a State Department official said in New York, where Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is attending the U.N. General Assembly.

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U.S. Ambassador to Libya Christopher Stevens and three other Americans were killed during what Washington has called a terrorist attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi on Sept. 11.

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**STATE DEPARTMENT**

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**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 27, 2012 9:24 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: into first story

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

I'd love it

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**Sent:** Thursday, September 27, 2012 08:55 PM  
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NEW YORK, Sept 27 (Reuters) - The United States is

temporarily withdrawing more staff from its embassy in Libya's capital for security reasons, but hopes to return them to Tripoli early next week, the U.S. State Department said on Thursday.

"This is a temporary further drawdown of staff for security reasons. We will review our posture again early next week with the goal of restoring staff as soon as conditions allow," a State Department official said in New York, where Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is attending the U.N. General Assembly.

The senior official declined to say how many staff were being withdrawn or discuss specifics.

U.S. Ambassador to Libya Christopher Stevens and three other Americans were killed during what Washington has called a terrorist attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi on Sept. 11.

**Bret Baier**  
Anchor, "Special Report with Bret Baier"  
Fox News Channel



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**From:** Fishel, Justin  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 27, 2012 5:47 PM  
**To:** Baier, Bret; 169 -SPECIAL REPORT  
**Subject:** RE: into first story

I've checked with two senior state dept officials and so far nothing- one said it didn't ring any bells. They are looking into it. Standby.

---

**From:** Baier, Bret  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 27, 2012 5:33 PM  
**To:** 169 -SPECIAL REPORT; Fishel, Justin  
**Subject:** into first story

Can we confirm..

**BC-U.S. TEMPORARILY WITHDRAWING MORE STAFF FROM EMBASSY IN TRIPOLI,**



U.S. TEMPORARILY WITHDRAWING MORE STAFF FROM EMBASSY IN TRIPOLI,  
LIBYA, FOR SECURITY REASONS, HOPES TO RESTORE THEM NEXT WEEK -  
STATE DEPARTMENT

**Bret Baier**  
**Anchor, "Special Report with Bret Baier"**  
**Fox News Channel**

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>>

**From:**  
**Sent:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Attachments:**

Summers, Pat [REDACTED]  
Thursday, September 27, 2012 5:52 PM

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Fw: into first story  
Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) 1.jpg; Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) 2.jpg

Hey man, how are ya? Where are you? I'm in NY Fox is pool. Oh - and I have HRC dancing to give you! We put it on a flash-drive for you. Hey any chance you could give me anything on this story below? Fox going crazy for it...

**From:** Baier, Bret  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 27, 2012 05:49 PM  
**To:** Fishel, Justin; 169 -SPECIAL REPORT  
**Subject:** RE: into first story

More details in this one:

**BC-LIBYA-USA/EMBASSY (URGENT)**

**U.S. temporarily reduces more staff from Libya embassy**

NEW YORK, Sept 27 (Reuters) - The United States is temporarily withdrawing more staff from its embassy in Libya's capital for security reasons, but hopes to return them to Tripoli early next week, the U.S. State Department said on Thursday.

"This is a temporary further drawdown of staff for security reasons. We will review our posture again early next week with the goal of restoring staff as soon as conditions allow," a

State Department official said in New York, where Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is attending the U.N. General Assembly.

The senior official declined to say how many staff were being withdrawn or discuss specifics.

U.S. Ambassador to Libya Christopher Stevens and three other Americans were killed during what Washington has called a terrorist attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi on Sept. 11.

Bret Baier  
Anchor, "Special Report with Bret Baier"  
Fox News Channel



---

**From:** Fishel, Justin  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 27, 2012 5:47 PM  
**To:** Baier, Bret; 169 -SPECIAL REPORT  
**Subject:** RE: into first story

I've checked with two senior state dept officials and so far nothing- one said it didn't ring any bells. They are looking into it. Standby.

---

**From:** Baier, Bret  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 27, 2012 5:33 PM  
**To:** 169 -SPECIAL REPORT; Fishel, Justin  
**Subject:** into first story

Can we confirm..

**BC-U.S. TEMPORARILY WITHDRAWING MORE STAFF FROM EMBASSY IN TRIPOLI,**

**U.S. TEMPORARILY WITHDRAWING MORE STAFF FROM EMBASSY IN TRIPOLI,**

**LIBYA, FOR SECURITY REASONS, HOPES TO RESTORE THEM NEXT WEEK -**

**STATE DEPARTMENT**

Bret Baier  
Anchor, "Special Report with Bret Baier"  
Fox News Channel

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**From:** Hensman, Chris D  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 25, 2012 2:24 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** RE: Chris Stevens

b6  
b7C

**Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**SMARTCategory:** Working

-Fox. Just to clarify, Rosen came in here trying to get info on the diary (before Hastings came out). I said he should contact you. He seemed to want me to get the answers from you without bringing him into it. I stressed again for him to call you as we've been telling other journalists.

Chris Hensman  
Acting Press Office Director  
U.S. Department of State  
202-647-4444 (Office)  
[REDACTED] (Mobile)

b6 Per DOS

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Rosen, James [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 25, 2012 2:09 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] Hensman, Chris D  
**Subject:** RE: Chris Stevens

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

[REDACTED]  
Thanks for your reply.

First: Please know that my expression of condolences about Chris Stevens and his colleagues was heartfelt. I did not know Chris, but I reported at the time (on Bret Baier's show) on Stevens's first few trips to Benghazi. When he died, our videotape librarian sent me an email I had sent to him, back in April 2011, requesting a search for any video of a diplomat named Chris Stevens. So I had followed his work somewhat and was, like all American patriots, deeply dismayed at his and his colleagues' death.

Now: A few notes on some of the other things you wrote.

I have already deleted most of yesterday's emails -- so a forensic examination is impossible, and would, in any case, be no one's idea of Time Well Spent -- but I don't think I yet knew about your exchanges with Michael Hastings when I reached out to you. What had happened was that I had reached out first to Chris Hensman, who informed me that All Things Stevens Journal were being handled by [REDACTED]. I informed Chris that my last encounter with you, in Phuket, Thailand in July 2009, had not been positive and that I doubted you would be responsive to any inquiries from

me. I accordingly asked Chris if he could work as an intermediary to extract from you the answers to three questions I was posing, to wit:

1. Is what CNN is reporting about the contents of the journal accurate?
2. Did Amb. Stevens convey back to Foggy Bottom any of the security concerns that he purportedly entered into his journal? and
3. Can Fox News freely use the statement that [ ] provided to the *Huffington Post* without attributing it to the *Huffington Post*? b6 b7C

None of my questions related to the Hastings exchange, as I did not yet know about it. The reason I decided to contact you directly was because a few hours had passed; I had not yet heard back from Chris; and I regarded that I had no other option than to contact you. Chris did ultimately reply, by the way, later in the day, apologizing for connectivity issues and providing the following (background) answers to my questions: No comment on the accuracy of CNN's reporting; any dealings Amb. Stevens had with Foggy Bottom would be covered by the FBI investigation; and no one at State was disavowing the *Huffington Post* statement, but I should contact you for anything further.

That I did indeed make the effort to contact someone whom I had every good reason to believe would not be receptive to my inquiries should be seen only for what it was: my devotion to thoroughness in the execution of my assignment. That I wound up reporting on the Hastings exchange for "Special Report" came about only after all of this had transpired; and as you had not responded to my first inquiry, I had little reason to try again.

Elsewhere you stated:

It has indeed been awhile since you covered State, at least a couple of years since you were re-assigned. I can't recall exactly when that was, but I vividly remember why.

As government officials never tire of telling reporters, and as is certainly apt in this instance, you were not privy to the decision-making process involved when I was re-assigned from State (in late July 2009) and accordingly it would not be a safe assumption for you to assume that you know why, or "remember why," said decision was made. This would be the case whether your purported understanding, or memory, is "vivid," dim, or otherwise.

Then there is what you refer to as Michael Hastings's allusion to "a malicious accusation against me that you know better than anyone never happened, and is a vicious lie." [ ] when I read that that passage in the Hastings exchange, I did not know what it referred to, and was baffled by it. Accordingly, it is untrue for you or anyone else to assert that I "know better than anyone" the truth or falsity of Hastings's insinuations, because I did not have – and do not today have – the faintest idea of what Hastings was talking (or writing) about. You will further note that in my reporting on Bret Baier's show, I opted not to include any references to this passage. b6 b7C

If we accept the particulars and sum total of all that I have written here as the truth – which you should, because it is – one inescapable conclusion should be that there is no inherent "conflict of interest" in our working together, professionally and collegially, when circumstances warrant. At least I would not so regard, despite the experience in Phuket and others like it. (I would take this opportunity to say that the Hastings exchange makes our encounter in Phuket look like wedded bliss, by comparison; and I now don't feel so badly about it. Never in my life have I used such language to question or challenge a government official, and never in my life has any government official used such language, or felt the need to use such language, in communications with me.)

I close by taking note of what you yourself wrote to me on the night of July 9, 2009 – a mere fortnight before my re-assignment – and which is embedded in this very email chain for all to see, below. You stated then, near the end of my tenure at State:

Your job is to cover the Secretary and you have done so closely and well, and we have done everything we can to help you do so....[Y]ou yourself want to see things reported correctly..

That was certainly true when you wrote it [redacted] and – although I no longer cover the State Department full time, and now serve as Fox News' Chief Washington Correspondent – your last sentence from back then, about me wanting "to see things reported correctly," also remains true.

b6  
b7C

Yours sincerely,  
James

James Rosen  
Chief Washington Correspondent  
Host, "The Foxhole"  
Twitter: @JamesRosenFNC

[redacted] (office)

[redacted] (mobile)

b6 Per DOS

Author, *The Strong Man: John Mitchell and the Secrets of Watergate*

---

From: [redacted]  
Sent: Tuesday, September 25, 2012 1:27 PM  
To: Rosen, James: [redacted]  
Cc: [redacted]  
Subject: Re: Chris Stevens

b6  
b7C

Hi James

Please excuse the slow reply, yesterday was a long one. And thank you for your words about Chris. I don't know if you had a relationship with him, but I had a chance to get to know him a little over the last year, and I understand why every person who ever knew him is devastated.

It has indeed been awhile since you covered State, at least a couple of years since you were re-assigned. I can't recall exactly when that was, but I vividly remember why.

I'll admit that my antenna might be a little too sensitive these days given all that's going on, but I can't help but notice the timing of your note coming so soon after Michael Hastings posted online the unfortunate exchange he and I had - which alluded to a malicious accusation against me that you know better than anyone never happened, and is a vicious lie.

So in an abundance of caution and an attempt at self-restraint that was absent in my email exchange with Hastings, I think it's inappropriate for you and I to work together in this instance. This is too serious a time for anything else to be at play. For that reason I'm adding [redacted] so he can decide if someone else should be assigned to work with State on this, as well my colleague [redacted] in the event [redacted] decides you should continue, in which case she can answer your questions as well as I can.

b6  
b7C

Either option would avoid what I believe is a clear conflict

Hope you're otherwise well,

[redacted]

b6  
b7C

HRC-9601

From: Rosen, James [mailto: ]  
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2012 03:02 PM  
To:   
Subject:

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Long time, no speak. Hope this finds you well. Wondering if we can talk today, on any basis that makes you comfortable, re: the altogether saddening subject of Ambassador Stevens and his journal -- and in advance of which you have my deepest condolences. I am reachable today at the Fox State booth If for some reason I don't pick up when you call, kindly leave me a number where I can call you back.

b6 Per DOS

Yours cordially,  
James

James Rosen  
Chief Washington Correspondent  
Host, "The Foxhole"  
Twitter: @JamesRosenFNC

(office)  
(State)  
(mobile)

b6 Per DOS

Author, *The Strong Man: John Mitchell and the Secrets of Watergate*

-----Original Message-----

From:   
Sent: Thursday, July 09, 2009 8:19 PM  
To: Rosen, James  
Cc: (PACE)  
Subject: FOX

b6  
b7C

I know that both and have connected with you on this, so I will spare you from being triple teamed.

But I want to convey that what FOX chooses to air or publishes reflects on FOX in its entirety, not solely on "someone out of New York" who we have never heard of and who will disappear from our lives after tomorrow. You are FOX's State correspondent. Your job is to cover the Secretary and you have done so closely and well, and we have done everything we can to help you do so. While it's our job to do so, you yourself are also capable of communicating to Judson Berger many of the answers he is seeking because you yourself have asked many of them or have been present when other have asked and or have answered, on camera - so we fully expect that you will do so. Not only because you yourself want to see things reported correctly, but because ultimately, you are our primary point of contact at FOX.

b6  
b7C

Thanks James

-----Original Message-----  
From: James Rosen

HRC-9602

To: [redacted]  
Subject: Urgent  
Sent: Jul 8, 2009 5:26 PM

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

[redacted] I just learned ten-minutes ago that the Fox News website is planning on running a story tomorrow morning, developed by someone out of New York, to the effect that there is trouble in the HRC-Obama relationship. I think they are keying off the recent NYT and Wash Times stories alleging HRC was pushing for a harder line on Iran, etc. I would like an on-the-record quote from you, presumably dispelling such rumors, and also to chat with you off the record TONIGHT about who you think is behind the rumors/whispers etc. Pls call on my cell [redacted] If you don't communicate with me, [redacted] I can't be of help in shaping this monster. Best, James

James Rosen  
Fox News State Department Correspondent

[redacted] (office)  
[redacted] (State)  
[redacted] (mobile)

b6 Per DOS

HRC-9603



**From:** Rosen, James [redacted]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 25, 2012 2:53 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Cc:** Hensman, Chris D  
**Subject:** RE: Chris Stevens

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Thanks [redacted] That is gracious of you and much appreciated. Yours cordially, James

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 25, 2012 2:48 PM  
**To:** Rosen, James [redacted]  
**Cc:** Hensman, Chris D  
**Subject:** Re: Chris Stevens

b6  
b7C

James, as in the press room, I am at your service if you need help as well. [redacted] make regular use of this channel.

**From:** Rosen, James [mailto:[redacted]]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 25, 2012 02:09 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] Hensman, Chris D  
**Subject:** RE: Chris Stevens

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

[redacted]  
Thanks for your reply.

First: Please know that my expression of condolences about Chris Stevens and his colleagues was heartfelt. I did not know Chris, but I reported at the time (on Bret Baier's show) on Stevens's first few trips to Benghazi. When he died, our videotape librarian sent me an email I had sent to him, back in April 2011, requesting a search for any video of a diplomat named Chris Stevens. So I had followed his work somewhat and was, like all American patriots, deeply dismayed at his and his colleagues' death.

Now: A few notes on some of the other things you wrote.

I have already deleted most of yesterday's emails – so a forensic examination is impossible, and would, in any case, be no one's idea of Time Well Spent – but I don't think I yet knew about your exchanges with Michael Hastings when I reached out to you. What had happened was that I had reached out first to Chris Hensman, who informed me that All Things Stevens Journal were being handled by [redacted]. I informed Chris that my last encounter with you, in [redacted] b6  
Phuket, Thailand in July 2009, had not been positive and that I doubted you would be responsive to any inquiries from b7C  
me. I accordingly asked Chris if he could work as an intermediary to extract from you the answers to three questions I was posing, to wit:

1. Is what CNN is reporting about the contents of the journal accurate?
2. Did Amb. Stevens convey back to Foggy Bottom any of the security concerns that he purportedly entered into his journal? and
3. Can Fox News freely use the statement that [redacted] provided to the *Huffington Post* without attributing it to the *Huffington Post*?

None of my questions related to the Hastings exchange, as I did not yet know about it. The reason I decided to contact you directly was because a few hours had passed; I had not yet heard back from Chris; and I regarded that I had no other option than to contact you. Chris did ultimately reply, by the way, later in the day, apologizing for connectivity issues and providing the following (background) answers to my questions: No comment on the accuracy of CNN's reporting; any dealings Amb. Stevens had with Foggy Bottom would be covered by the FBI investigation; and no one at State was disavowing the *Huffington Post* statement, but I should contact you for anything further.

That I did indeed make the effort to contact someone whom I had every good reason to believe would not be receptive to my inquiries should be seen only for what it was: my devotion to thoroughness in the execution of my assignment. That I wound up reporting on the Hastings exchange for "Special Report" came about only after all of this had transpired; and as you had not responded to my first inquiry, I had little reason to try again.

Elsewhere you stated:

It has indeed been awhile since you covered State, at least a couple of years since you were re-assigned. I can't recall exactly when that was, but I vividly remember why.

As government officials never tire of telling reporters, and as is certainly apt in this instance, you were not privy to the decision-making process involved when I was re-assigned from State (in late July 2009) and accordingly it would not be a safe assumption for you to assume that you know why, or "remember why," said decision was made. This would be the case whether your purported understanding, or memory, is "vivid," dim, or otherwise.

Then there is what you refer to as Michael Hastings's allusion to "a malicious accusation against me that you know better than anyone never happened, and is a vicious lie." [redacted] when I read that that passage in the Hastings exchange, I did not know what it referred to, and was baffled by it. Accordingly, it is untrue for you or anyone else to assert that I "know better than anyone" the truth or falsity of Hastings's insinuations, because I did not have – and do not today have – the faintest idea of what Hastings was talking (or writing) about. You will further note that in my reporting on Bret Baier's show, I opted not to include any references to this passage.

b6  
b7C

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I close by taking note of what you yourself wrote to me on the night of July 9, 2009 – a mere fortnight before my re-assignment – and which is embedded in this very email chain for all to see, below. You stated then, near the end of my tenure at State:

Your job is to cover the Secretary and you have done so closely and well, and we have done everything we can to help you do so....[Y]ou yourself want to see things reported correctly...

That was certainly true when you wrote it, [redacted] and – although I no longer cover the State Department full time, a b6 now serve as Fox News' Chief Washington Correspondent – your last sentence from back then, about me wanting "to b7C see things reported correctly," also remains true.

Yours sincerely,  
James

HRC-9605

James Rosen  
Chief Washington Correspondent  
Host, "The Foxhole"  
Twitter: @JamesRosenFNC

[redacted] (office)  
[redacted] (mobile)  
[redacted]

b6 Per DOS

Author, *The Strong Man: John Mitchell and the Secrets of Watergate*

---

From: [redacted]  
Sent: Tuesday, September 25, 2012 1:27 PM  
To: Rosen, James; [redacted]  
Cc: [redacted]  
Subject: Re: Chris Stevens

b6  
b7C

Hi James

Please excuse the slow reply, yesterday was a long one. And thank you for your words about Chris. I don't know if you had a relationship with him, but I had a chance to get to know him a little over the last year, and I understand why every person who ever knew him is devastated.

It has indeed been awhile since you covered State, at least a couple of years since you were re-assigned. I can't recall exactly when that was, but I vividly remember why.

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b6  
b7C

Either option would avoid what I believe is a clear conflict

Hope you're otherwise well,

[redacted]

---

From: Rosen, James, [mailto:[redacted]]  
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2012 03:02 PM  
To: [redacted]  
Subject: [redacted]

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

HRC-9606

Long time, no speak. Hope this finds you well. Wondering if we can talk today, on any basis that makes you comfortable, re: the altogether saddening subject of Ambassador Stevens and his journal -- and in advance of which you have my deepest condolences. I am reachable today at the Fox State booth [redacted] If for some reason I don't pick up when you call, kindly leave me a number where I can call you back. b6 Per DOS

Yours cordially,  
James

-----  
James Rosen  
Chief Washington Correspondent  
Host, "The Foxhole"  
Twitter: @JamesRosenFNC

[redacted] (office)  
[redacted] (State)  
[redacted] (mobile)

b6 Per DOS

Author, *The Strong Man: John Mitchell and the Secrets of Watergate*

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted]  
Sent: Thursday, July 09, 2009 8:19 PM  
To: Rosen, James  
Cc: [redacted] (PACE)  
Subject: FOX

b6  
b7C

I know that both [redacted] and [redacted] have connected with you on this, so I will spare you from being triple teamed.

But I want to convey that what FOX chooses to air or publishes reflects on FOX in its entirety, not solely on "someone out of New York" who we have never heard of and who will disappear from our lives after tomorrow. You are FOX's State correspondent. Your job is to cover the Secretary and you have done so closely and well, and we have done everything we can to help you do so. While it's our job to do so, you yourself are also capable of communicating to Judson Berger many of the answers he is seeking because you yourself have asked many of them or have been present when other have asked and [redacted] or [redacted] have answered, on camera - so we fully expect that you will do so. Not only because you yourself want to see things reported correctly, but because ultimately, you are our primary point of contact at FOX. b6  
b7C

Thanks James

-----Original Message-----

From: James Rosen  
To: [redacted]  
Subject: Urgent  
Sent: Jul 8, 2009 5:26 PM

b6  
b7C

[redacted] I just learned ten minutes ago that the Fox News website is planning on running a story tomorrow morning, developed by someone out of New York, to the effect that there is trouble in the HRC-Obama relationship. I think they are keying off the recent NYT and Wash Times stories alleging HRC was pushing for a harder line on Iran, etc. I would like an on-the-record quote from you, presumably dispelling such rumors, and also to chat with you off

the record TONIGHT about who you think is behind the rumors/whispers etc. Pls call on my cell [redacted]. If you don't communicate with me, [redacted] I can't be of help in shaping this monster. Best, James

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

James Rosen  
Fox News State Department Correspondent

[redacted] (office)  
[redacted] (State)  
[redacted] (mobile)

b6 Per DOS

HRC-9608

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 25, 2012 2:48 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Cc:** Hensman, Chris D  
**Subject:** Re: Chris Stevens

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

James, as in the press room, I am at your service if you need help as well. Justin and Wendell make regular use of this channel.

**From:** Rosen, James [mailto:[redacted]]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 25, 2012 02:09 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] Hensman, Chris D  
**Subject:** RE: Chris Stevens

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

[redacted]  
Thanks for your reply.

First: Please know that my expression of condolences about Chris Stevens and his colleagues was heartfelt. I did not know Chris, but I reported at the time (on Bret Baier's show) on Stevens's first few trips to Benghazi. When he died, our videotape librarian sent me an email I had sent to him, back in April 2011, requesting a search for any video of a diplomat named Chris Stevens. So I had followed his work somewhat and was, like all American patriots, deeply dismayed at his and his colleagues' death.

Now: A few notes on some of the other things you wrote.

I have already deleted most of yesterday's emails – so a forensic examination is impossible, and would, in any case, be no one's idea of Time Well Spent – but I don't think I yet knew about your exchanges with Michael Hastings when I reached out to you. What had happened was that I had reached out first to Chris Hensman, who informed me that All Things Stevens Journal were being handled by [redacted]. I informed Chris that my last encounter with you, in Phuket, Thailand in July 2009, had not been positive and that I doubted you would be responsive to any inquiries from me. I accordingly asked Chris if he could work as an intermediary to extract from you the answers to three questions I was posing, to wit:

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None of my questions related to the Hastings exchange, as I did not yet know about it. The reason I decided to contact you directly was because a few hours had passed; I had not yet heard back from Chris; and I regarded that I had no other option than to contact you. Chris did ultimately reply, by the way, later in the day, apologizing for connectivity issues and providing the following (background) answers to my questions: No comment on the accuracy of CNN's reporting; any dealings Amb. Stevens had with Foggy Bottom would be covered by the FBI investigation; and no one at State was disavowing the *Huffington Post* statement, but I should contact you for anything further.

HRC-9609

That I did indeed make the effort to contact someone whom I had every good reason to believe would not be receptive to my inquiries should be seen only for what it was: my devotion to thoroughness in the execution of my assignment. That I wound up reporting on the Hastings exchange for "Special Report" came about only after all of this had transpired; and as you had not responded to my first inquiry, I had little reason to try again.

Elsewhere you stated:

It has indeed been awhile since you covered State, at least a couple of years since you were re-assigned. I can't recall exactly when that was, but I vividly remember why.

As government officials never tire of telling reporters, and as is certainly apt in this instance, you were not privy to the decision-making process involved when I was re-assigned from State (in late July 2009) and accordingly it would not be a safe assumption for you to assume that you know why, or "remember why," said decision was made. This would be the case whether your purported understanding, or memory, is "vivid," dim, or otherwise.

Then there is what you refer to as Michael Hastings's allusion to "a malicious accusation against me that you know better than anyone never happened, and is a vicious lie." [redacted] when I read that that passage in the Hastings exchange, I did not know what it referred to, and was baffled by it. Accordingly, it is untrue for you or anyone else to assert that I "know better than anyone" the truth or falsity of Hastings's insinuations, because I did not have – and do not today have – the faintest idea of what Hastings was talking (or writing) about. You will further note that in my reporting on Bret Baier's show, I opted not to include any references to this passage.

b6  
b7C

If we accept the particulars and sum total of all that I have written here as the truth – which you should, because it is – one inescapable conclusion should be that there is no inherent "conflict of interest" in our working together, professionally and collegially, when circumstances warrant. At least I would not so regard, despite the experience in Phuket and others like it. (I would take this opportunity to say that the Hastings exchange makes our encounter in Phuket look like wedded bliss, by comparison; and I now don't feel so badly about it. Never in my life have I used such language to question or challenge a government official, and never in my life has any government official used such language, or felt the need to use such language, in communications with me.)

I close by taking note of what you yourself wrote to me on the night of July 9, 2009 – a mere fortnight before my re-assignment – and which is embedded in this very email chain for all to see, below. You stated then, near the end of my tenure at State:

Your job is to cover the Secretary and you have done so closely and well, and we have done everything we can to help you do so....[Y]ou yourself want to see things reported correctly...

That was certainly true when you wrote it [redacted] and – although I no longer cover the State Department full time, and now serve as Fox News' Chief Washington Correspondent – your last sentence from back then, about me wanting "to see things reported correctly," also remains true.

Yours sincerely,  
James

James Rosen  
Chief Washington Correspondent  
Host, "The Foxhole"  
Twitter: @JamesRosenFNC

[redacted] (office)  
[redacted] (mobile)

b6 Per DOS

HRC-9610

Author, *The Strong Man: John Mitchell and the Secrets of Watergate*

From: [redacted]  
Sent: Tuesday, September 25, 2012 1:27 PM  
To: Rosen, James [redacted]  
Cc: [redacted]  
Subject: Re: Chris Stevens

b6  
b7C

Hi James

Please excuse the slow reply, yesterday was a long one. And thank you for your words about Chris. I don't know if you had a relationship with him, but I had a chance to get to know him a little over the last year, and I understand why every person who ever knew him is devastated.

It has indeed been awhile since you covered State, at least a couple of years since you were re-assigned. I can't recall exactly when that was, but I vividly remember why.

I'll admit that my antenna might be a little too sensitive these days given all that's going on, but I can't help but notice the timing of your note coming so soon after Michael Hastings posted online the unfortunate exchange he and I had - which alluded to a malicious accusation against me that you know better than anyone never happened, and is a vicious lie.

So in an abundance of caution and an attempt at self-restraint that was absent in my email exchange with Hastings, I think it's inappropriate for you and I to work together in this instance. This is too serious a time for anything else to be at play. For that reason I'm adding [redacted] so he can decide if someone else should be assigned to work with State on this, as well my colleague [redacted] in the event [redacted] decides you should continue, in which case she can answer your questions as well as I can.

b6  
b7C

Either option would avoid what I believe is a clear conflict

Hope you're otherwise well,

[redacted]

From: Rosen, James [mailto:[redacted]]  
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2012 03:02 PM  
To: [redacted]  
Subject:

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

[redacted]

Long time, no speak. Hope this finds you well. Wondering if we can talk today, on any basis that makes you comfortable, re: the altogether saddening subject of Ambassador Stevens and his journal -- and in advance of which you have my deepest condolences. I am reachable today at the Fox State booth: 202-861-4782. If for some reason I don't pick up when you call, kindly leave me a number where I can call you back.

Yours cordially,

HRC-9611



James

James Rosen  
Chief Washington Correspondent  
Host, "The Foxhole"  
Twitter: @JamesRosenFNC

[redacted] (office)  
[redacted] (State)  
[redacted] (mobile)

b6 Per DOS

Author, The Strong Man: John Mitchell and the Secrets of Watergate

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted]  
Sent: Thursday, July 09, 2009 8:19 PM  
To: Rosen, James  
Cc: [redacted] (PACE)  
Subject: FOX

b6  
b7C

I know that both [redacted] and [redacted] have connected with you on this, so I will spare you from being triple teamed.

But I want to convey that what FOX chooses to air or publishes reflects on FOX in its entirety, not solely on "someone out of New York" who we have never heard of and who will disappear from our lives after tomorrow. You are FOX's State correspondent. Your job is to cover the Secretary and you have done so closely and well, and we have done everything we can to help you do so. While it's our job to do so, you yourself are also capable of communicating to Judson Berger many of the answers he is seeking because you yourself have asked many of them or have been present when other have asked and [redacted] or [redacted] have answered, on camera - so we fully expect that you will do so. Not only because you yourself want to see things reported correctly, but because ultimately, you are our primary point of contact at FOX. b6 b7C

Thanks James

-----Original Message-----

From: James Rosen  
To: [redacted]  
Subject: Urgent  
Sent: Jul 8, 2009 5:26 PM

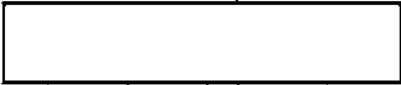
b6  
b7C

[redacted] I just learned ten minutes ago that the Fox News website is planning on running a story tomorrow morning, developed by someone out of New York, to the effect that there is trouble in the HRC-Obama relationship. I think they are keying off the recent NYT and Wash Times stories alleging HRC was pushing for a harder line on Iran, etc. I would like an on-the-record quote from you, presumably dispelling such rumors, and also to chat with you off the record TONIGHT about who you think is behind the rumors/whispers etc. Pls call on my cell [redacted] If you don't communicate with me, [redacted] I can't be of help in shaping this monster. Best, James

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

James Rosen  
Fox News State Department Correspondent  
[redacted] (office)  
[redacted] (State)

b6 Per DOS  
HRC-9612



b6 Per DOS

From: Rosen, James [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, September 25, 2012 2:09 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: Hensman, Chris D  
Subject: RE: Chris Stevens

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

[REDACTED]

Thanks for your reply.

First: Please know that my expression of condolences about Chris Stevens and his colleagues was heartfelt. I did not know Chris, but I reported at the time (on Bret Baier's show) on Stevens's first few trips to Benghazi. When he died, our videotape librarian sent me an email I had sent to him, back in April 2011, requesting a search for any video of a diplomat named Chris Stevens. So I had followed his work somewhat and was, like all American patriots, deeply dismayed at his and his colleagues' death.

Now: A few notes on some of the other things you wrote.

I have already deleted most of yesterday's emails – so a forensic examination is impossible, and would, in any case, be no one's idea of Time Well Spent – but I don't think I yet knew about your exchanges with Michael Hastings when I reached out to you. What had happened was that I had reached out first to Chris Hensman, who informed me that All Things Stevens Journal were being handled by [REDACTED]. I informed Chris that my last encounter with you, in Phuket, Thailand in July 2009, had not been positive and that I doubted you would be responsive to any inquiries from me. I accordingly asked Chris if he could work as an intermediary to extract from you the answers to three questions I was posing, to wit:

1. Is what CNN is reporting about the contents of the journal accurate?
2. Did Amb. Stevens convey back to Foggy Bottom any of the security concerns that he purportedly entered into his journal? and
3. Can Fox News freely use the statement that [REDACTED] provided to the *Huffington Post* without attributing it to the *Huffington Post*?

None of my questions related to the Hastings exchange, as I did not yet know about it. The reason I decided to contact you directly was because a few hours had passed; I had not yet heard back from Chris; and I regarded that I had no other option than to contact you. Chris did ultimately reply, by the way, later in the day, apologizing for connectivity issues and providing the following (background) answers to my questions: No comment on the accuracy of CNN's reporting; any dealings Amb. Stevens had with Foggy Bottom would be covered by the FBI investigation; and no one at State was disavowing the *Huffington Post* statement, but I should contact you for anything further.

That I did indeed make the effort to contact someone whom I had every good reason to believe would not be receptive to my inquiries should be seen only for what it was: my devotion to thoroughness in the execution of my assignment. That I wound up reporting on the Hastings exchange for "Special Report" came about only after all of this had transpired; and as you had not responded to my first inquiry, I had little reason to try again.

Elsewhere you stated:

It has indeed been awhile since you covered State, at least a couple of years since you were re-assigned. I can't recall exactly when that was, but I vividly remember why.

HRC-9614

As government officials never tire of telling reporters, and as is certainly apt in this instance, you were not privy to the decision-making process involved when I was re-assigned from State (in late July 2009) and accordingly it would not be a safe assumption for you to assume that you know why, or "remember why," said decision was made. This would be the case whether your purported understanding, or memory, is "vivid," dim, or otherwise.

Then there is what you refer to as Michael Hastings's allusion to "a malicious accusation against me that you know better than anyone never happened, and is a vicious lie." [redacted] when I read that that passage in the Hastings exchange, I did not know what it referred to, and was baffled by it. Accordingly, it is untrue for you or anyone else to assert that I "know better than anyone" the truth or falsity of Hastings's insinuations, because I did not have – and do not today have – the faintest idea of what Hastings was talking (or writing) about. You will further note that in my reporting on Bret Baier's show, I opted not to include any references to this passage.

b6  
b7C

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Your job is to cover the Secretary and you have done so closely and well, and we have done everything we can to help you do so....[Y]ou yourself want to see things reported correctly...

That was certainly true when you wrote it [redacted] and – although I no longer cover the State Department full time, and now serve as Fox News' Chief Washington Correspondent – your last sentence from back then, about me wanting "to see things reported correctly," also remains true.

b6  
b7C

Yours sincerely,  
James

James Rosen  
Chief Washington Correspondent  
Host, "The Foxhole"  
Twitter: @JamesRosenFNC

[redacted] (office)  
[redacted] (mobile)

b6 Per DOS

Author, *The Strong Man: John Mitchell and the Secrets of Watergate*

From [redacted]  
Sent: Tuesday, September 25, 2012 1:27 PM  
To: Rosen, James [redacted]  
Cc [redacted]  
Subject: Re: Chris Stevens

b6  
b7C

Hi James

HRC-9615

Please excuse the slow reply, yesterday was a long one. And thank you for your words about Chris. I don't know if you had a relationship with him, but I had a chance to get to know him a little over the last year, and I understand why every person who ever knew him is devastated.

It has indeed been awhile since you covered State, at least a couple of years since you were re-assigned. I can't recall exactly when that was, but I vividly remember why.

I'll admit that my antenna might be a little too sensitive these days given all that's going on, but I can't help but notice the timing of your note coming so soon after Michael Hastings posted online the unfortunate exchange he and I had - which alluded to a malicious accusation against me that you know better than anyone never happened, and is a vicious lie.

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Either option would avoid what I believe is a clear conflict

b6  
b7C

Hope you're otherwise well,

[redacted]

**From:** Rosen, James [mailto:[redacted]]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 03:02 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** [redacted]

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

Long time, no speak. Hope this finds you well. Wondering if we can talk today, on any basis that makes you comfortable, re: the altogether saddening subject of Ambassador Stevens and his journal -- and in advance of which you have my deepest condolences. I am reachable today at the Fox State booth [redacted] If for some reason I don't pick up when you call, kindly leave me a number where I can call you back.

b6 Per DOS

Yours cordially,  
James

James Rosen  
Chief Washington Correspondent  
Host, "The Foxhole"  
Twitter: @JamesRosenFNC

(office)  
(State)  
(mobile)

b6 Per DOS

HRC-9616

Author, The Strong Man: John Mitchell and the Secrets of Watergate

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted]  
Sent: Thursday, July 09, 2009 8:19 PM  
To: Rosen, James  
Cc: [redacted] (PACE)  
Subject: FOX

b6  
b7C

I know that both [redacted] and [redacted] have connected with you on this, so I will spare you from being triple teamed.

But I want to convey that what FOX chooses to air or publishes reflects on FOX in its entirety, not solely on "someone out of New York" who we have never heard of and who will disappear from our lives after tomorrow. You are FOX's State correspondent. Your job is to cover the Secretary and you have done so closely and well, and we have done everything we can to help you do so. While it's our job to do so, you yourself are also capable of communicating to Judson Berger many of the answers he is seeking because you yourself have asked many of them or have been present when other have asked and [redacted] or [redacted] have answered, on camera - so we fully expect that you will do so. Not only because you yourself want to see things reported correctly, but because ultimately, you are our primary point of contact at FOX. b6 b7C

Thanks James

-----Original Message-----

From: James Rosen  
To: [redacted]  
Subject: Urgent  
Sent: Jul 8, 2009 5:26 PM

b6  
b7C

[redacted] I just learned ten minutes ago that the Fox News website is planning on running a story tomorrow morning, developed by someone out of New York, to the effect that there is trouble in the HRC-Obama relationship. I think they are keying off the recent NYT and Wash Times stories alleging HRC was pushing for a harder line on Iran, etc. I would like an on-the-record quote from you, presumably dispelling such rumors, and also to chat with you off the record TONIGHT about who you think is behind the rumors/whispers etc. Pls call on my cell [redacted] If you don't communicate with me [redacted] I can't be of help in shaping this monster. Best, James b6 Per DOS, FBI b7C Per FBI

James Rosen  
Fox News State Department Correspondent

(office)  
(State)  
(mobile)

b6 Per DOS

HRC-9617

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**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 2:24 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: Hastings

b6  
b7C

I asked for this

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**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 02:22 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: Hastings

b6  
b7C

Ugh. What an a..h...

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**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 01:46 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** Fw: Hastings

b6  
b7C

---

**From:** [redacted] [mailto:[redacted]]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 01:42 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** Hastings

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

[redacted] I'm really sorry if you are getting inundated with emails about this but in case not, I just wanted you to know it's out there

### Hillary Clinton Aide Tells Reporter To "Fuck Off" And "Have A Good Life"

As the State Department's story about what happened in Benghazi crumbles, Clinton's personal spokesperson, Philippe Reines, loses his temper. "Have a good day. And by good day I mean Fuck Off."

<http://www.buzzfeed.com/buzzfeedpolitics/hillary-clinton-aide-tells-reporter-to-fuck-off>

On Sunday morning, BuzzFeed correspondent Michael Hastings emailed Philippe Reines, Hillary Clinton's longtime aide and personal spokesman at the State Department, asking a series of pointed questions about State's handling of the Benghazi fiasco, and Reines' over-the-top attack on CNN. The emails quickly got personal, with Reines calling Hastings an "unmitigated asshole" before an exchange of harsh words on both sides.

HRC-9618

The email chain concluded with Reines writing that Hastings should "Fuck Off" and "Have a nice life."

The full exchange (with one typo fixed) is below.

**From: Michael Hastings Sent: Sunday, September 23, 2012 10:32 AM To: Reines, Philippe I Subject: Request for comment**

Hey Philippe:

A few quick questions for you. Why didn't the State Department search the consulate and find AMB Steven's diary first? What other potential valuable intelligence was left behind that could have been picked up by apparently anyone searching the grounds? Was any classified or top secret material also left? Do you still feel that there was adequate security at the compound, considering it was not only overrun but sensitive personal effects and possibly other intelligence remained out for anyone passing through to pick up? Your statement on CNN sounded pretty defensive--do you think it's the media's responsibility to help secure State Department assets overseas after they've been attacked?

Let me know if you have a second.Michael

On Sun, Sep 23, 2012 at 11:28 AM, Reines,

**Philippe I wrote:**

Good morning Michael

I'm adding my colleague Toria Nuland who I believe you know. She has addressed much of your questions below during her daily press briefings, so I'll let her weigh in to remind you of what's already been thoroughly answered. As far as the tone of my email, I think you're misreading mine as much as I'm misreading yours as being needlessly antagonistic.

But on your questions pertaining to CNN's handling of the diary:

- You know that all USG personnel were evacuated from Benghazi after the attack. So I'm not sure why you're asking why State didn't find the diary first.
- On material, I'll let Toria reiterate, but the answer is no. Though you might want to ask CNN if they took anything else from the crime scene that they haven't yet told anyone about.
- In terms of the media's responsibility, I'll start with the outlandish statement that I believe the media does have responsibilities. Your question seems to imply they have none and any expectation of responsible behavior is too much to ask. To be specific: I believe CNN had the responsibility to act as human beings and be sensitive to their loss when they first approached the family.

I believe CNN had a responsibility to not make promises to the family it would not keep.

If that's too much to ask, I believe CNN had at the very least a responsibility to make their intentions on the use of Chris's diary clear to the family from the outset.

I believe CNN had a responsibility to not deceive its own viewers for more than 48 hours on the source of their reporting, using convoluted attribution they themselves had to clarify, before admitting it was the diary they were relying on.

I believe that when they finally did admit to using Chris's diary, they had a responsibility to their viewers and to the family to explain why they broke their pledge.

I believe that many within CNN agree with everything I'm saying.

HRC-9619



More than anything else, I believe that CNN - since they had already read every word of the diary before calling the family on Friday the 14th, the day Chris's remains were returned home - had all the information they needed at that point to make an editorial decision on whether the contents of the diary compelled them to report on it. I believe the time to invoke their standards to justify using the diary came six days late. I believe that CNN, if they felt strongly that they had an obligation to use the diary should never have presented the family with a choice in the first place that they'd later disregard.

I don't believe that CNN should get credit for issuing a flimsy confession only when caught with their hands in the cookie jar. I believe the statement CNN issued late last night, 24 hours after Anderson Cooper's ill-conceived statement on air, basically says they agreed not to use it until they didn't feel like it anymore, and only admitted to it when they were about to be caught. I don't believe that's much of a profile in courage.

Lastly, I believe that you of all people, after famously being accused of violating agreed upon ground rules and questionable sourcing, would agree that it's important for a news organization to maintain its own integrity if it is to be trusted. That begins with keeping its word. If you can't manage that, then don't give it.

I realize that the way this works is that you only you get to ask me questions, but I have one for you: if you were in Benghazi, went to the scene of the attack, found the ambassador's diary, read every word of it, would you have called them and asked their permission to use it, then when you weren't granted that permission agree that you wouldn't use it in any way, and then a few days later just change your mind?

If the answer is yes, then you obviously agree that CNN handled this perfectly fine.

If the answer is no, if you would have decided its contents demanded reporting immediately, how would you have handled this differently then CNN?

And you should feel free to use every word above, in its entirety. Though I suspect you won't.  
Philippe

---

**From: Michael Hastings Sent: Sunday, September 23, 2012 12:04 PM To: Reines, Philippe I Cc: Nuland, Victoria J Subject: Re: Request for comment**

Philippe:

Thanks for getting back to me. No, you read my email correctly--I found your statement to CNN offensive.

From my perspective, the scandal here is that the State Department had such inadequate security procedures in place that four Americans were killed. And then the Ambassador's diary--and who knows what else--was left behind for anyone to pick up. Thankfully, it was CNN--and not Al Qaeda or some other militia--that found it and was able to return it to the family. That CNN used portions of the material in the diary they found at the scene--material that appears to contradict the official version of events that State/WH has been putting out--is completely in line with practices of good journalism.

I don't know how involved Arwa Damon has been in this. But for what it's worth, Arwa is one of the best war correspondents working today. She's consistently risked her life to get these

stories, and to find out what actually happens in these conflict zones. I do agree that the media has lots of responsibilities, and CNN fulfilled its responsibility by returning the diary while still managing to inform the American public of newsworthy information. So it's unfortunate that you are trying to make a scapegoat out of CNN. That State was forced to flee Benghazi-- again, because of such inadequate security, leaving behind all sorts of sensitive information-- tells us more about DoS than CNN.

The misinformation here seems largely to be coming from State and the administration. The defense that the administration has offered that there was no intelligence warning of an attack is weak. If there was no intel, then clearly the CIA and other intel agents stationed in Benghazi weren't doing their jobs well. If there was intel, then we have some kind of cover-up-- whether out of incompetence or ass covering before the election or just the trauma of losing four good men, it's hard for me to say at this point.

All the best,

Michael

---

On Sun, Sep 23, 2012 at 12:45 PM, Reines,

Philippe I wrote:

Why do you bother to ask questions you've already decided you know the answers to?

---

From: Michael Hastings Sent: Sunday, September 23, 2012 12:50 PM To: Reines, Philippe I Cc: Nuland, Victoria J Subject: Re: Request for comment

Why don't you give answers that aren't bullshit for a change?

---

On Sun, Sep 23, 2012 at 1:38 PM, Reines,

Philippe I wrote: I now understand why the official investigation by the Department of the Defense as reported by The Army Times The Washington Post concluded beyond a doubt that you're an unmitigated asshole.

How's that for a non-bullshit response?

Now that we've gotten that out of our systems, have a good day.

And by good day, I mean Fuck Off

---

From: Michael Hastings Sent: Sunday, September 23, 2012 01:40 PM To: Reines, Philippe I Cc: Nuland, Victoria J Subject: Re: Request for comment

Hah--I now understand what women say about you, too!

Any new complaints against you lately?

---

On Sun, Sep 23, 2012 at 1:48 PM, Reines,

Philippe I wrote:

Talk about bullshit - answer me this: Do you only traffic in lies, or are you on the ground floor of creating them?

And since Fuck Off wasn't clear enough, I'm done with you. Inside of 5 minutes when I can log into my desktop, you'll be designated as Junk Mail.

Have a good life Michael.

23, 2012 at 1:50 PM Subject: Re: Request for comment To: "Reines, Philippe I" Cc:  
"Nuland, Victoria J"

I'll take that as a non-denial denial.

All the best,

Michael

---

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 4:35 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: Hastings

b6  
b7C

Pls don't beat yourself up.  
We've all been beaten up enuf by life the last 2 weeks.

---

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 02:23 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: Hastings

b6  
b7C

I asked for this

---

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 02:22 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: Hastings

b6  
b7C

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**Subject:** Fw: Hastings

b6  
b7C

---

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**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 01:42 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
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b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

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HRC 9623

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I'm adding my colleague Toria Nuland who I believe you know. She has addressed much of your questions below during her daily press briefings, so I'll let her weigh in to remind you of what's already been thoroughly answered. As far as the tone of my email, I think you're misreading mine as much as I'm misreading yours as being needlessly antagonistic.

But on your questions pertaining to CNN's handling of the diary:

- You know that all USG personnel were evacuated from Benghazi after the attack. So I'm not sure why you're asking why State didn't find the diary first.
- On material, I'll let Toria reiterate, but the answer is no. Though you might want to ask CNN if they took anything else from the crime scene that they haven't yet told anyone about.
- In terms of the media's responsibility, I'll start with the outlandish statement that I believe the media does have responsibilities. Your question seems to imply they have none and any expectation of responsible behavior is too much to ask. To be specific: I believe CNN had the responsibility to act as human beings and be sensitive to their loss when they first approached the family.

I believe CNN had a responsibility to not make promises to the family it would not keep.

If that's too much to ask, I believe CNN had at the very least a responsibility to make their intentions on the use of Chris's diary clear to the family from the outset.

HRC-9624

I believe CNN had a responsibility to not deceive its own viewers for more than 48 hours on the source of their reporting, using convoluted attribution they themselves had to clarify, before admitting it was the diary they were relying on.

I believe that when they finally did admit to using Chris's diary, they had a responsibility to their viewers and to the family to explain why they broke their pledge.

I believe that many within CNN agree with everything I'm saying.

More than anything else, I believe that CNN - since they had already read every word of the diary before calling the family on Friday the 14th, the day Chris's remains were returned home - had all the information they needed at that point to make an editorial decision on whether the contents of the diary compelled them to report on it. I believe the time to invoke their standards to justify using the diary came six days late. I believe that CNN, if they felt strongly that they had an obligation to use the diary should never have presented the family with a choice in the first place that they'd later disregard.

I don't believe that CNN should get credit for issuing a flimsy confession only when caught with their hands in the cookie jar. I believe the statement CNN issued late last night, 24 hours after Anderson Cooper's ill-conceived statement on air, basically says they agreed not to use it until they didn't feel like it anymore, and only admitted to it when they were about to be caught. I don't believe that's much of a profile in courage.

Lastly, I believe that you of all people, after famously being accused of violating agreed upon ground rules and questionable sourcing, would agree that it's important for a news organization to maintain its own integrity if it is to be trusted. That begins with keeping its word. If you can't manage that, then don't give it.

I realize that the way this works is that you only you get to ask me questions, but I have one for you: if you were in Benghazi, went to the scene of the attack, found the ambassador's diary, read every word of it, would you have called them and asked their permission to use it, then when you weren't granted that permission agree that you wouldn't use it in any way, and then a few days later just change your mind?

If the answer is yes, then you obviously agree that CNN handled this perfectly fine.

If the answer is no, if you would have decided its contents demanded reporting immediately, how would you have handled this differently than CNN?

And you should feel free to use every word above, in its entirety. Though I suspect you won't.

Philippe

---

**From: Michael Hastings Sent: Sunday, September 23, 2012 12:04 PM To: Reines, Philippe I Cc: Nuland, Victoria J Subject: Re: Request for comment**

Philippe:

Thanks for getting back to me. No, you read my email correctly--I found your statement to CNN offensive.

From my perspective, the scandal here is that the State Department had such inadequate security procedures in place that four Americans were killed. And then the Ambassador's diary--and who knows what else--was left behind for anyone to pick up. Thankfully, it was

CNN--and not Al Qaeda or some other militia--that found it and was able to return it to the family. That CNN used portions of the material in the diary they found at the scene--material that appears to contradict the official version of events that State/WH has been putting out--is completely in line with practices of good journalism.

I don't know how involved Arwa Damon has been in this. But for what it's worth, Arwa is one of the best war correspondents working today. She's consistently risked her life to get these stories, and to find out what actually happens in these conflict zones. I do agree that the media has lots of responsibilities, and CNN fulfilled its responsibility by returning the diary while still managing to inform the American public of newsworthy information. So it's unfortunate that you are trying to make a scapegoat out of CNN. That State was forced to flee Benghazi--again, because of such inadequate security, leaving behind all sorts of sensitive information--tells us more about DoS than CNN.

The misinformation here seems largely to be coming from State and the administration. The defense that the administration has offered that there was no intelligence warning of an attack is weak. If there was no intel, then clearly the CIA and other intel agents stationed in Benghazi weren't doing their jobs well. If there was intel, then we have some kind of cover-up--whether out of incompetence or ass covering before the election or just the trauma of losing four good men, it's hard for me to say at this point.

All the best,  
Michael

---

On Sun, Sep 23, 2012 at 12:45 PM, Reines,

Philippe I wrote:

Why do you bother to ask questions you've already decided you know the answers to?

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From: Michael Hastings Sent: Sunday, September 23, 2012 12:50 PM To: Reines, Philippe I Cc: Nuland, Victoria J Subject: Re: Request for comment

Why don't you give answers that aren't bullshit for a change?

---

On Sun, Sep 23, 2012 at 1:38 PM, Reines,

Philippe I wrote: I now understand why the official investigation by the Department of the Defense as reported by The Army Times The Washington Post concluded beyond a doubt that you're an unmitigated asshole.

How's that for a non-bullshit response?

Now that we've gotten that out of our systems, have a good day.

And by good day, I mean Fuck Off

---

From: Michael Hastings Sent: Sunday, September 23, 2012 01:40 PM To: Reines, Philippe I Cc: Nuland, Victoria J Subject: Re: Request for comment

Hah--I now understand what women say about you, too!

Any new complaints against you lately?

---

On Sun, Sep 23, 2012 at 1:48 PM, Reines,

Philippe I wrote:

HRC-9626

Talk about bullshit - answer me this: Do you only traffic in lies, or are you on the ground floor of creating them?

And since Fuck Off wasn't clear enough, I'm done with you. Inside of 5 minutes when I can log into my desktop, you'll be designated as Junk Mail.

Have a good life Michael.

---

**From: Michael Hastings** **Date: Sun, Sep 23, 2012 at 1:50 PM** **Subject: Re: Request for comment** **To: "Reines, Philippe I"** **Cc: "Nuland, Victoria J"**

I'll take that as a non-denial denial.

All the best,

Michael



From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, September 21, 2012 1:52 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: TIME: How Libya Makes Obama Vulnerable—and the GOP Knows It

b6 Per DOS

<http://swampland.time.com/2012/09/21/how-libya-makes-obama-vulnerable-and-the-gop-knows-it/>

## How Libya Makes Obama Vulnerable—and the GOP Knows It

By JAY NEWTON-SMALL : @JNSmall

"Rally around the flag" time is over. For the most part, Republicans—with the exception of Mitt Romney—had held their fire in the wake of Sept. 11 attacks against U.S. embassies in Cairo and Libya, which claimed the lives of four Americans including U.S. Ambassador to Libya J. Christopher Stevens. But as questions emerge about how the Libya attack, in particular, went down, Republicans are starting to criticize the Obama Administration for not anticipating the violence and not doing enough to secure Libya after the fall of Muammar Gaddafi.

Republicans almost universally reacted with skepticism and scorn after a briefing Thursday by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Director of National Intelligence James Clapper and Deputy Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter. "They're trying to cover their behinds," Rep. Bill Flores, a Texas Republican, told *The Hill* upon leaving the House briefing. Senator Bob Corker, a Tennessee Republican, echoed the sentiment: "That is the most useless worthless briefing I have attended in a long time."

In the days following the attacks, the White House at first said it believed the attack in Benghazi in eastern Libya that claimed Stevens' life was spontaneous, born of protests over an inflammatory California-made video mocking the Prophet Muhammad. "We do not have information at present that leads us to conclude that this was premeditated or preplanned," U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice told CBS's "Face the Nation" on Sept. 16.

The Administration has since changed course and now admits the attack may have been pre-planned. Clinton told senators on Thursday that she believed that it was "self-evident" that it was a terrorist attack. "It seems like it was obvious [there was] some element of preplanning, but how far in advance, that's hard to say," Rep. Adam Smith, the top Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee told reporters. Though, all three briefers were careful to underline that there had been no chatter or warning of an attack, despite six recent al Qaeda-linked incidents – not aimed at the U.S. – in Benghazi in recent weeks. Republicans say the Administration potentially dropped the ball in Libya, not doing enough to prevent a terrorist attack that claimed American lives. Some have even likened President Obama's response as more deer-in-headlights than George W. Bush's blank stare when told about the twin tower attacks on Sept. 11, 2001 while reading a book to children. Obama, they note, has admitted to skipping some of his daily intelligence briefings. The Administration did not do enough to secure weapons in Libya following the fall of Gaddafi, they say, and sent in U.S. diplomatic personnel with inadequate security.

The GOP criticism may be fueled by public reaction to the Mideast debacle. An NBC/*Wall Street Journal* poll released Sept. 18 found Obama's foreign policy approval rating among registered voters to be

HRC-9628

49%, down from 54% a month earlier. Among independents that fall was steeper, down to 41% from 53% a month prior.

Until the embassy attacks, Republicans have had trouble denting Obama's strength on foreign policy. Obama, after all, had approved the daring raid that killed Osama bin Laden and his policies are pretty much in line with those of George W. Bush. Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney has had a tough time going to Obama's right on almost any foreign policy issue. And Romney has also suffered from a ham-handed approach to the subject. A Reuters/Ipsos poll out Sept. 18 found that four in 10 voters felt less favorably towards Romney following his far-too early and ill-conceived criticism of the embassy attacks. Romney has said little more about the Libya attack other than underlining the importance of bringing the killers to justice. Whether he echoes his GOP colleagues' criticisms remains to be seen. Read more: <http://swampland.time.com/2012/09/21/how-libya-makes-obama-vulnerable-and-the-gop-knows-it/#ixzz277zScHKI>

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 3:38 PM  
**To:** Mills, Cheryl D; Kennedy, Patrick F; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** SFRC

b6  
b7C

**Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**SMARTCategory:** Working

[http://www.foreignpolicy.com/files/fp\\_uploaded\\_documents/120928\\_Benghazi%20Ct%20ltr%20%20%209%2028%2012.pdf](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/files/fp_uploaded_documents/120928_Benghazi%20Ct%20ltr%20%20%209%2028%2012.pdf)

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**Feed:** The Cable  
**Posted on:** Friday, September 28, 2012 11:01 AM  
**Author:** Josh Rogin  
**Subject:** Entire Senate Foreign Relations Committee calls for more info on embassy attacks

All 19 members of the Senate Foreign Relations committee wrote to Deputy Secretary of State Tom Nides Friday to request more answers and another administration briefing on the wave of anti-American attacks that took place earlier this month, including the Sept. 11 assault in Benghazi that killed Amb. Chris Stevens and three other Americans.

"Please expand the accounting of the attacks against U.S. missions in Egypt, Libya and Yemen beginning on Sept. 11, 2012, to include attacks that took place at any U.S. missions from Sept. 11-13, 2012," the committee member wrote in the letter, obtained by *The Cable*, referencing attacks on the U.S. embassies in Sudan, Tunisia, and Pakistan, among others.

The senators want to know not only if security at these various missions was adequate, but what steps the host governments took to protect the U.S. missions during the attacks. They also want to know if there was proper intelligence-sharing between those governments and the U.S. government and whether security is tight enough at U.S. missions in dangerous places that were not attacked this month.

The letter was organized by Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman John Kerry (D-MA) and represents a follow-up and expansion on Kerry's Sept. 17 letter to Nides, reported by The Cable Thursday.

Kerry appears to be balancing between demanding answers about the administration's handling of the Sept. 11 events and defending the Obama team from escalating Republican criticism, fueled by daily revelations in the conservative and mainstream media.

On MSNBC Friday, the Massachusetts senator lamented that some Republicans and the Romney campaign have been quick to attack the Obama administration's response to the Benghazi attacks. "All they can do is see the politics in this," he said.

The committee wants a briefing on all these questions the week of Nov. 13, when the Senate is expected to next be in session, even if the FBI investigation and the State Department's Accountability Review Board aren't finished by then. The presidential election is one week earlier -- Nov. 6.

"We recognize that many of the matters may still be under analysis and investigation at that time, but given the importance of these issues to all committee members, even an interim response would be particularly helpful and much appreciated," the senators wrote.

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**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 29, 2012 2:23 PM  
**To:** [redacted] Mills, Cheryl D; Kennedy, Patrick F [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re. SFRC

b6  
b7C

Thanks. Kerry is trying to reassert control over the committee, and box out some of the Rs who are being incredibly political about this.

---

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 03:38 PM  
**To:** Mills, Cheryl D; Kennedy, Patrick F; [redacted]  
**Subject:** SFRC

b6  
b7C

[http://www.foreignpolicy.com/files/fp\\_uploaded\\_documents/120928\\_Benghazi%20Ct%20ltr%20%20%209%2028%2012.pdf](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/files/fp_uploaded_documents/120928_Benghazi%20Ct%20ltr%20%20%209%2028%2012.pdf)  
f

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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From: [redacted]  
Sent: Sunday, September 23, 2012 9:33 PM  
To: stratcomm  
Subject: Nice profile of S in Irish Times

b6  
b7c

## First among equals

The Irish Times - Saturday, September 22, 2012

**PROFILE:** Long decried as a polarising influence in US politics, Hillary Clinton is now seen as a safe pair of hands, and a strong contender for president in 2016, writes LARA MARLOWE in Washington

That 3am phone call came this month, when Chris Stevens, the US ambassador to Libya, and three other US diplomats were killed by an angry mob that stormed the consulate in Benghazi on the anniversary of 9/11. It was the first time since 1979 that an American ambassador had been murdered. Foreign policy suddenly moved centre stage in the US presidential campaign.

President Barack Obama and secretary of state Clinton, once bitter rivals, confronted the crisis together. Clinton announced the deaths first, just before 10 the next morning. Wearing a dark suit and triple string of pearls, she projected powerful, controlled emotion: "Today, many Americans are asking – indeed, I asked myself – how could this happen?" she said. "How could this happen in a country we helped liberate, in a city we helped save from destruction?" An hour later, Clinton stood beside Obama as he made a similar speech in the Rose Garden.

As riots and demonstrations multiplied across the Muslim world, Obama seemed to use Clinton as a shield. Mitt Romney's campaign attacked the president for a statement by the US embassy in Cairo denouncing an anti-Muslim film. The administration was paralysed. If Obama criticised the offensive film, he'd be accused of being a Muslim, of "apologising" for America's freedom of expression.

Finally, it was Clinton, in a meeting with her Moroccan counterpart two days after the assault on the consulate in Benghazi, who said what needed to be said: "The US had absolutely nothing to do with this video. We absolutely reject its content and message . . . To us, to me personally, this video is disgusting and reprehensible."

Obama and Clinton received the bodies of the four dead diplomats at Andrews Air Force base. Clinton's words touched the deepest chord among the victims' families, perhaps because they were her employees. When Obama finished his speech, Clinton reached over and clasped his hand. As they left the podium together, he put his arm around her. All week, Clinton stood gravely by Obama's side, looking every inch the commander-in-chief-in-waiting.

The previous week, when the Democrats rallied in Charlotte, Clinton was a powerful presence, though she'd gone abroad, saying the secretary of state must be a non-partisan public servant. Her husband Bill's speech was credited with giving Obama a post-convention "bounce" in opinion polls. The unstated assumption was that, regardless of who wins on November 6th, the Democratic nomination next time is Clinton's for the asking.

This week, as Mitt Romney's campaign floundered over a video in which he appeared to disown nearly half the US population, Obama's re-election looked more likely. "If Hillary does run in 2016, Obama will owe her and her husband," says a Clinton friend and former fundraiser. "The respectful working relationship benefits them both; it's worth their while to keep it going."

"Barring an act of God, she'll be the Democratic nominee in 2016," predicts Peter Feaver, professor of political science at Duke University and a former adviser to the National Security Council under George W. Bush. "I cannot imagine a Democratic challenger who could defeat her, unless she was ill. She will be a juggernaut in 2016."

Clinton has long made it clear she will leave the State Department in January, before Obama's term ends. She has talked of setting up a foundation, or working with her husband's Clinton Global Initiative.

Terry McAuliffe, the former head of the Democratic National Committee who chaired Bill's 1996 re-election campaign and Hillary's 2008 campaign, swears that 2016 "is the furthest thing from her mind today. She is looking forward to spending a couple of years relaxing. She has earned it."

Would he chair her campaign again, I ask McAuliffe. "It's a long way off and she'd have to ask," he says, before showing the mettle of true believers. "But let me put it this way: I would do anything Hillary asked me to do. I love her."

Clinton will turn 69 a week before the 2016 election – Ronald Reagan's age when he assumed office. "She'll take time off and the political fire will return," he predicts. "She'll have a hard time resisting."

If Clinton wins the White House four years from now, "first woman president" will crown her list of "first" achievements.

In 1969, she was the first member of a graduating class at Wellesley women's college to deliver the commencement address. Her criticism of the Vietnam war was covered by national media. Hillary earned more than her husband for 15 years before he became president. She was the first first lady to hold a postgraduate degree, the most travelled, and the first to be elected to public office – the Senate, in 2000 – while still living in the White House.

Clinton was also the first former first lady to become a cabinet member, breaking all records for travel as secretary of state. In the week the US began bombing Libya in March 2011, she clocked up 20,000 miles flying back and forth between Washington, Europe and the Middle East. The adjective most used to describe her is "tireless".

It's not uncommon to hear Americans say, "I wouldn't have voted for Hillary in 2008, but I would vote for her today".

"She hasn't changed," her friend stresses, as if annoyed by a fickle public. McAuliffe, too, is both galled and gratified by Clinton's change of fortune.

"People now see her as I've seen her for 30 years," he says. "Smart, energetic, funny, sweet, personable, outgoing, gracious, generous . . . The press tried to define her and her husband negatively. Now, through her tenure as secretary of state, people see the real Hillary Clinton."

The Clintons started dating when both were students at Yale, 41 years ago. Their marriage continues to fascinate.



"It's a mystery to a lot of people. It's probably a mystery to them too," jokes the friend, who compares Bill and Hillary to Franklin D and Eleanor Roosevelt. The Roosevelts stayed together while leading largely independent lives.

McAuliffe insists the marriage is more than a political and intellectual alliance rooted in shared ambition. "People go through tough times," he says. "But you can tell they care so deeply about one another. My wife and I spent some time on vacation with them a couple of weeks ago. You know, you watch them walking down the beach, holding hands, and oh my goodness, yes: it's love, affection, admiration, respect."

Clinton has been the most popular woman in the world in Gallup polls for 16 of the past 19 years. Forbes magazine calls her the second most powerful woman in the world, after Angela Merkel. She's the most popular member of Obama's cabinet, with approval ratings in the high 60s.

Books have been written about Clinton as a "polarising figure". Yet she no longer polarises. In 1995, the New York Times writer Todd Purdum called her "the Rorschach test first lady," after the ink blots whose interpretation is supposed to define one's personality. Clinton herself, and a slew of commentators, have seen public reaction to her as an indicator of society's attitude towards women.

As the United States became more accepting of empowered women, Clinton mellowed. Public and stateswoman grew accustomed to one another. Twenty years ago, when Bill stood for the presidency, conservatives described Hillary as "the Lady Macbeth of Little Rock [the capital of Arkansas]". Today, Republican critics such as Prof Feaver give her the highest marks in Obama's cabinet and say she's a good secretary of state, if not a great one.

Clinton's election to the US Senate in 2000 seemed to liberate her. She started showing her sense of humour in her 2003 autobiography, *Living History*, in which she described her own laugh – which the press call a cackle – as "the same big rolling guffaw that can . . . send cats running from the room".

At the 2010 American Ireland Fund gala, Clinton delivered a gentle putdown to an effusive buildup by her then economic envoy to Northern Ireland, Declan Kelly. "Thank you Declan. You have once again proven the truth of one of my husband's rules of politics," she deadpanned. "Always be introduced by someone you have appointed to high office." The audience erupted in laughter.

Diplomats give Clinton rave reviews. "She's had an open door into the State Department for Ireland," says Ambassador Michael Collins. "I can't tell you how important that is and has been, not just for people from Dublin, but also for people from Northern Ireland, all of whom she has made very, very welcome there. This hasn't always been like that."

Collins credits Clinton with being the first secretary of state to make an official, bilateral visit to Dublin, helping to resolve the last difficulties in the Northern Ireland peace process, holding an investment conference for Northern Ireland and partnering with Ireland on development projects.

Joao Vale de Almeida, the European Union's ambassador, discounts reports that the Obama administration has neglected Europe to execute its "pivot" to Asia.

"On the contrary, in the two years I've been here, the transatlantic relationship has grown closer," he says. In particular, de Almeida praises the "very good personal chemistry" between Clinton and Catherine Ashton, the EU's high representative for foreign policy. "They meet, talk on the phone and exchange text messages quite often."

Clinton has endeavoured to forge the sort of relationship with Asia that the US constructed with Europe in the decades following the second World War. Last year, she was the first US secretary of state to visit Burma in 56

years – she met again with Burmese pro-democracy opposition leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi earlier this week – and she obtained the harshest sanctions yet against Iran.

Democrats and diplomats attribute the total absence of movement towards peace between Israel and Palestinians to Obama's need to secure re-election, and hope he'll do better in a second term.

Although Clinton bridled at the nickname "Amazons", she and several women prominent in the Obama administration reportedly persuaded the president to intervene to avert a massacre in Libya.

When Cairo rose up against its pharaoh, Clinton called the Mubarak regime "stable" 17 days before it fell. She and Obama have been stymied by Syrian president Bashar al-Assad's refusal to leave power.

Clinton nonetheless looked likely to leave office on a high note, until riots broke out across the Arab and Muslim world and several US diplomatic posts were breached this month.

"The people of Egypt, Libya, Yemen and Tunisia did not trade the tyranny of a dictator for the tyranny of a mob," she said when the remains of the murdered US diplomats were returned. Yet it was unclear what the US could or would do to counter "the tyranny of the mob".

Officials are braced for a long period of Arab unrest, while it's become apparent that, despite pious wishes for democracy in the Middle East, the US lost influence – and control – with the fall of the dictators. Clinton risks being blamed for that unsolved conundrum.

### **A life transformed by the Clintons**

SHARON HAUGHEY WAS a 14-year-old schoolgirl in Armagh when then president, Bill, and first lady, Hillary Clinton, visited Belfast in December 1995.

"It was the first time a US president or anybody of such a high profile had come to Northern Ireland," Haughey (pictured below with Clinton) says. "For too many years, nobody wanted to know about our Troubles."

The Haughey family watched the Christmas tree-lighting ceremony on television. Sharon describes them: "A stay-at-home mum who brought us up. Daddy was a construction labourer who was unemployed a lot. We lived in a housing estate.

"When Bill Clinton said, 'This is a letter from Sharon in Armagh,' my family were laughing and joking, 'It's you, Sharon,' as he started to quote me in his speech. And I said, 'It is me'," Haughey recalls. She hadn't been sure Clinton had received her letter, which was prompted by the murder of her mother's cousins, the three Reavey brothers, in White Cross. Masked gunmen shot them in their beds. "They were innocent victims. The only way they were identified as Catholics was they played for the local GAA club. I had seen too many things I didn't want for the future of our country."

The White House asked Haughey to introduce the Clintons onstage when they visited Armagh in 1998. It was Hillary who reassured a nervous Haughey, then 17, before she delivered her speech. The US president asked, 'Is your family here?' "He said, 'Go and gather them up and bring them because I want to meet them.' At no point did I ever feel rushed with them. They spent a lot longer than I ever would have expected, and the fact they stayed in touch with me until now shows the mark of them as people. This wasn't just a PR stunt for them."

The Monica Lewinsky scandal had just broken. Journalists kept asking the Irish teenager what the Clintons' relationship was like. "I really wasn't interested in that," Haughey says. "President Clinton did so much good for Ireland, and Northern Ireland in particular, for the peace process. I felt that whatever was going on in his

personal life was between him and Hillary to sort out. But for me, that didn't take away from the good he had done in Ireland."

Haughey says Hillary "played a very important role and carved out a unique agenda for herself during these visits. She put the spotlight on ordinary, working class women. People were saying, 'We want peace. We want lasting peace.' It was the power of the people that made peace possible."

Inspired by the Clintons, Haughey joined the SDLP in the late 1990s. In 2003, after a degree in communications, advertising and marketing at the University of Ulster, she was selected by the Washington Ireland Program for one of 30 annual internships and ended up in Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton's office.

Kevin Sullivan, the current chair of the WIP, says Bill Clinton had to overcome the objections of the Secret Service to Hillary Clinton having WIP interns in the White House. She continued the tradition on Capitol Hill, hosting eight WIP interns in her eight years as a senator from New York. Hillary's staffers assigned Haughey to relations with Irish-American constituents and Irish matters in Congress. Clinton "would come and go in the office, and she had such a presence about her. She was always so well dressed and turned out. Whenever she walked into the room, everybody's eyes would be on her," Haughey says.

Clinton took time out of a demanding schedule to meet dozens of American interns working for her, as well as WIP scholars assigned to the supreme court, law firms and other congressmen. "I was very aware that Chelsea would have been a year or so older than me," Haughey says. "When she looked at this group of young people, she was probably thinking of her own daughter."

Haughey returned to Armagh and won a seat on the local council in 2005. In 2007, she stood for the Northern Ireland Assembly. "Unfortunately, I just didn't make it," she says. But like her mentor and role model, Haughey will not give up. Hillary quoted Haughey's now famous 1995 letter to Bill on receiving an award from the American Ireland Fund in March 2010: "Both sides have been hurt. Both sides will have to forgive," the schoolgirl had written.

Last June, Armagh was accorded a Lord Mayor's office in honour of Queen Elizabeth's Jubilee. "It's a big profile for Armagh because only three Irish cities – Belfast, Dublin and Cork – had it," Haughey says proudly.

The Lord Mayor is none other than herself, Sharon Haughey, now 31. And she wants her old friends, Hillary and Bill, to return to Armagh before she gives up the title next June.

## **HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON ON...**

### **WOMEN**

"It is no longer acceptable to discuss women's rights as separate from human rights . . . Human rights are women's rights and women's rights are human rights, once and for all."

(As first lady, to the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 1995)

"Women are the largest untapped reservoir of talent in the world. It is past time for women to take their rightful place, side-by-side with men, in the rooms where the fates of peoples, where their children's and grandchildren's fates, are decided."

(International Crisis Group's awards ceremony, 2012)

## HER NEW-FOUND POPULARITY

"I've just been around now a long time. There's a certain consistency to who I am and what I do, and I think people have finally said, 'Well, you know, I kinda get her now'. I've actually had people say that to me."

(Elle, 2012)

THE MONICA LEWINSKY SCANDAL "As his wife, I wanted to wring Bill's neck. But he was not only my husband, he was also my president."

(Her 2003 autobiography, Living History)

## WHY SHE STAYED WITH BILL

"No one understands me better and no one can make me laugh the way Bill does. Even after all these years he is still the most interesting, energising and fully alive person I have ever met."

(Living History)

## WASHINGTON

"Of all the jobs I've had, sliming fish was pretty good preparation for life in Washington." (Living History)

## HER PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN

"I'm in, and I'm in to win."

(January 2007)

## GIVING UP THE CAMPAIGN

"Although we weren't able to shatter that highest, hardest glass ceiling this time, thanks to you it has about 18 million cracks in it and the light is shining through like never before."

(June 2008)

## NORTHERN IRELAND

"Peace may be officially established by a vote or an agreement, but it is the real life experiences of people day after day and year after year that cement it, that create what de Tocqueville called the habits of the heart."

(American Ireland Fund gala, March 2010)

## GAY RIGHTS

"Gay rights are human rights. It should never be a crime to be gay."

(The UN, Geneva, December 2011)

## THE DEATHS OF FOUR US DIPLOMATS

“So we will wipe away our tears, stiffen our spines, and face the future undaunted. And we will do it together, protecting and helping one another . . .”

(Transfer of Remains Ceremony at Andrews Air Force Base, September 14, 2012)

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<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/magazine/2012/0922/1224324215850.html>

From: [REDACTED] (PACE) [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2012 10:59 AM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Fw. Will Hillary Clinton be blamed for the embassy attacks? - Opinion - TheWashingtonPost

b6  
b7C

FYI, forwarding on [REDACTED] request.

From: [REDACTED] (PACE) [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2012 10:56 AM  
To: PA-IME Staff  
Subject: Will Hillary Clinton be blamed for the embassy attacks? - Opinion - TheWashingtonPost

b6  
b7C

Posted at 09:45 AM ET, 09/24/2012 TheWashingtonPost

### Will Hillary Clinton be blamed for the embassy attacks?

By Jennifer Rubin

With the media firmly in tow, the White House spin machine made a strategic error in trying to direct attention in the immediate aftermath of the attacks on diplomatic missions to Mitt Romney's comments objecting to the administration's apologetic tone. "Shoot first, aim later" is now coming back to bite the Obama team.

On Sunday Robert Gibbs got a taste of what is in store for President Obama and his top advisers:

Good if the administration didn't lie about the spontaneous nature of the attacks, its officials were speaking again and again for more than a week without knowing the facts, the very thing it accused Mitt Romney of doing (Gibbs's finger-pointing on the sequestration is a classic Obama dodge; if the president lies it, he will be eviscerated. Not only did Obama's team suggest the sequestration cuts and the president sign the legislation, but Obama then removed himself entirely from the super committee process. He was acting like a passive observer, not the president.

Moreover, it's not like the administration voluntarily changed its tune on the Libya account. All of the following disputed the "spontaneous" explanation: multiple press accounts, the administration's own national anti-terrorism official, and Republican Sens. John McCain (Ariz.), Susan Collins (Maine) and Kelly Ayotte (N.H.), not to mention House Intelligence Committee Chairman Rep. Mike Rogers (R-Mich.) and the Libyans. Finally, the administration could no longer stick to its cover story.

It strains credulity to think that anyone upon learning there were multiple attacks on U.S. sites on 9/11 would have as its first reaction: "Oh, the movie made them do it." If the administration actually believed such a tale, it can be only because Obama and his aides have come to believe their own spin — Osama bin Laden's death dealt a fatal blow to al-Qaeda; the problem in the region has been the West's historic insensitivity to Muslims; none of the events in the Middle East stem from the perception of U.S. weakness, etc.

You can tell that panic is setting in, as the Obama team looks for someone else to blame. Buzzfeed notes that the administration may well be out to spin this as "Hillary's fault." "[I]n reality, the fiasco appears to be largely — if not entirely — a State Department botch. It was the State Department that failed to provide its ambassador adequate security; it was the State Department that fled Benghazi in the aftermath of the attack, apparently failing to clear or secure the scene, leaving Stevens' diary behind; and it was State that had taken the lead on the ground after the Libya intervention." Parroting what will soon be the Obama campaign line, the report argues: "With the stunning revelations in the Ambassador's personal diary, the continued failure to get the Libya story straight, and Team Clinton's over-the-top response to any questioning of the official narrative, Clinton's State Department legacy is at risk of being permanently tarnished."

Something tells me that neither Bill nor Hillary Clinton is going to take that lying down. It was Obama who dragged his feet on Libya, allowing the extremists to gain a foothold there. It was Obama who chest-thumped over Osama bin Laden's killing and made the argument that the war on terror was essentially over. It was Obama's press secretary who insisted that the attack had nothing to do with the United States or with the president's policies. And most critically, it was Obama who conceived of himself as a transformational figure whose word, he thought, could alter the course of U.S. relations with the "Muslim World." That the administration has had no coherent policy for the Middle East post-Arab Spring and has been unable to halt Iran's nuclear weapons program are Hillary Clinton's failings in part, but does anyone think Obama isn't running his own foreign policy?

Clinton has been a dutiful foot soldier, but no one would ever accuse her of constructing a foreign policy built around the president's persona. Obama did that, and he'll have nowhere to run when the media, Congress and country recognize what a flop it has been.

By Jennifer Rubin | 09:45 AM ET, 09/24/2012

**From:** [REDACTED] (PACE) [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 11:13 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Fw: Will Hillary Clinton be blamed for the embassy attacks? - Opinion - TheWashingtonPost b6 b7C

Here you go.

**From:** [REDACTED] (PACE)  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 11:11 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED] (PACE)  
**Subject:** RE: Will Hillary Clinton be blamed for the embassy attacks? - Opinion - TheWashingtonPost  
<http://www.buzzfeed.com/mhastings/libya-threatens-clintons-legacy-and-stat> b6 b7C

**From:** [REDACTED] (PACE)  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 11:06 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED] (PACE)  
**Subject:** Fw: Will Hillary Clinton be blamed for the embassy attacks? - Opinion - TheWashingtonPost b6 b7C

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 11:04 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED] (PACE) [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Will Hillary Clinton be blamed for the embassy attacks? - Opinion - TheWashingtonPost b6 b7C

Thx

Can you pls send me the Buzzfeed thing referenced

**From:** [REDACTED] (PACE) [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 10:58 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Fw: Will Hillary Clinton be blamed for the embassy attacks? - Opinion - TheWashingtonPost b6 b7C

FYI, forwarding on [REDACTED] request.

**From:** [REDACTED] (PACE) [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 10:56 AM  
**To:** PA-IME Staff  
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HRC-9642

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By Jennifer Rubin | 09:45 AM ET, 09/24/2012



From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2012 11:05 AM  
To: [REDACTED] (PACE)  
Subject: Re: Will Hillary Clinton be blamed for the embassy attacks? - Opinion - TheWashingtonPost

b6  
b7C

Thx

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By Jennifer Rubin | 09:45 AM ET, 09/24/2012

From:  
Sent:  
To:  
Subject:

Friday, September 21, 2012 8:03 PM  
stratcomm

NYT: Pro-American Libyans Besiege Group Suspected in U.S. Envoy's Death

b6 Per DOS, FBI  
b7C Per FBI

September 21, 2012

## Pro-American Libyans Besiege Group Suspected in U.S. Envoy's Death

By SULIMAN ALI ZWAY and KAREEM FAHIM

BENGHAZI, Libya — Galvanized by anger over the killing of the popular American ambassador here last week, thousands of Libyans marched through this city on Friday, demanding the disarming of the militias that helped topple the dictatorship but have troubled the country with their refusal to disband.

In a show of mass frustration at the armed groups, protesters seized control of several militia headquarters on Friday night and handed them over to Libya's national army. They also stormed the headquarters of Ansar al-Sharia, a hard-line Islamist militia that has been linked to the attack on the United States mission in Benghazi that killed the ambassador and three other Americans.

As members of the militia fled their headquarters, protesters there set at least one vehicle on fire, and there were unconfirmed reports that several were wounded by gunfire from the departing gunmen.

The killing of the ambassador, J. Christopher Stevens, who was considered a hero in Benghazi because he worked closely with the rebels who toppled Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi last year, appeared to be the spark for the protests on Friday, though hardly its only cause. The militias, which started forming soon after the February 2011 uprising against Colonel Qaddafi, emerged as a parallel and often menacing authority after his downfall, seizing territory for themselves and asserting their authority over the fledgling government.

In western Libya, turf wars between militias resulted in regular street fights with heavy weapons. Months ago, members of Ansar al-Sharia brandishing weapons paraded through Benghazi, the birthplace of the anti-Qaddafi uprising, and called for an Islamic state.

The attack on the American mission in Benghazi that killed Ambassador Stevens, on the 11th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks last week, was an affront to many in Benghazi, which the ambassador had made his base during the uprising. He became a familiar, cheerful presence at public events.

"We want justice for Chris," read one sign among the group of an estimated 30,000 Libyans, including families, who marched into Benghazi's main square on Friday to protest in front of the main encampment of Ansar al-Sharia. Some held signs reading "The ambassador was Libya's friend," and "Libya lost a friend."

Members of Ansar al-Sharia held a counter-demonstration, and arguments erupted between the opposing sides, but no violence – at least not initially. Protesters chanted: “You terrorists, you cowards. Go back to Afghanistan.”

It was unclear whether the backlash against Ansar al-Sharia and the other militias represented an opportunity for the government to consolidate its authority in the post-Qaddafi era in Libya or could lead to new violent confrontations.

Ansar al-Sharia and other militias regard themselves as patriotic guardians that provide security in the power vacuum that formed in many parts of Libya after Colonel Qaddafi’s authority collapsed.

Ambassador Stevens and the others were killed in mayhem that was ostensibly provoked by anger over an anti-Islamic video made in the United States, which has been roiling the Muslim world for nearly two weeks. But officials have said there are indications that the killings were coordinated and planned.

The Obama administration, which has been careful about assigning blame in the death of Ambassador Stevens and the others, has begun to call the killings a “terrorist attack.” The change in language came as Republicans in Congress have criticized the administration over what they have called its failure to anticipate the problems in Libya. Some Republican lawmakers have moved to cut off aid to Libya as a result.

But one powerful Republican, Senator John McCain, counseled against such a move, citing the pro-American demonstration in Benghazi on Friday.

“These brave people in Libya are friends of America,” he said in a statement. “They want our help and need our help. And we must continue to provide it to them, which is exactly what Christ Stevens would have wanted.”

Suliman Ali Zway reported from Benghazi and Kareem Fahim from Beirut, Lebanon. Rick Gladstone contributed reporting from New York.



More in Africa (2 of 36 articles)

### **After Attack in Libya, an Ambush Struck Rescuers**

[Read More »](#)

From: OpsAlert  
Sent: Friday, September 21, 2012 4:30 PM  
Subject: SITUATION REPORT No. 18 09/21/III (SBU-Version)  
Attachments: image001.gif

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~



**EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT**  
*Operations Center*

***SITUATION REPORT No. 18***  
**Middle East Protests Monitoring Group MGMEP01**  
Friday, September 21, 2012  
1630 EDT

**PAKISTAN**

- ~~(SBU)~~ In Peshawar, police reported a demonstration approximately one mile from the consulate was under control. No protests are scheduled for September 22. *(MGMEP01/Embassy Islamabad e-mail)*
- ~~(SBU)~~ In Karachi, four separate demonstrations took place September 21. At the Jinnah bridge, approximately one mile from the consulate, a demonstration with up to 80,000 protesters dispersed at 1930 local. A violent rally of 500 to 1000 demonstrators nearby also broke up towards the end of the day. Demonstrators attempted to reach the consulate from alternate directions but were successfully diverted by police. Local police report at least 10 dead, including two police, and protesters burned several cinemas, banks, and restaurants. All consulate staff are safe. *(MGMEP01/Embassy Islamabad e-mail)*
- ~~(SBU)~~ In Islamabad, officials report fewer protesters than on September 20. Smaller crowds, numbering approximately 10,000 to 15,000, and a stronger security presence prevented a breach of the diplomatic enclave. Pakistan Army forces are still positioned nearby, and could be reinforced if necessary. *(MGMEP01/Embassy Islamabad e-mail)*
- ~~(SBU)~~ In Lahore, local police effectively kept approximately 7000 demonstrators a safe distance from the compound. Cell phone service was reported restored, but then blocked again after 1930 local. *(MGMEP01/Embassy Islamabad e-mail)*

**LIBYA**

- ~~(SBU)~~ Embassy Tripoli reports two separate groups protested peacefully in Benghazi. The Save Benghazi group called for militias in Libya to lay down their arms; an Ansar al-Sharia group led a counter-protest. Media report up to 30,000 participants though estimates vary widely. *(MGMEP01/Embassy Tripoli telcon, Al Jazeera)*
- (U) Libyan authorities stated eight suspects to date have been arrested for the attack on the U.S. Diplomatic Mission in Benghazi, media report. *(Reuters)*

**AFGHANISTAN**

- ~~(SBU)~~ In Herat, according to the governor, a protest meeting at a mosque with approximately 300 participants concluded peacefully. Additional protests were scheduled in the city. *(MGMEP01/Afghanistan desk e-mail)*

**YEMEN**

- ~~(SBU)~~ Calls for protests from Houthi groups via social media received little traction. Many youth groups responded they were simply an excuse to loot and vandalize property. *(12 Sana'a 753)*

## **EGYPT**

~~(SBU)~~ In Cairo, following Friday prayers, dozens of supporters of blind Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman marching towards the French Embassy were blocked by a heavy security presence. Local media report streets around the French compound were blocked. There were no demonstrators at or near the U.S. Embassy. *(MGMP01/Embassy Cairo e-mail)*

## **IRAQ**

- ~~(SBU)~~ In Basrah City, peaceful protests of approximately 200 demonstrators had no impact on the consulate. *(MGMEP01/Embassy Baghdad e-mail)*
- ~~(SBU)~~ There were no reported demonstrations in Baghdad September 21. *(MGMEP01/Embassy Baghdad e-mail)*

## **SUDAN**

~~(SBU)~~ The situation in Khartoum remains calm. Friday prayers monitored at several mosques contained no calls for demonstrations at embassies. *(MGMEP01/Embassy Khartoum e-mail)*

## **TUNISIA**

~~(SBU)~~ Police report the situation was calm in Tunis with the exception of minor scuffles. An additional 80 riot police are reinforcing security at Embassy Tunis. *(MGMEP01/Embassy Tunis e-mail)*

## **LEBANON**

~~(SBU)~~ Thousands peacefully protested in downtown Beirut, approximately seven miles from the embassy. *(MGMEP01/Embassy Beirut e-mail)*

## **ISRAEL**

~~(SBU)~~ In Jerusalem, approximately 200 Palestinian protesters attempted to march towards a U.S. consulate facility near the Damascus Gate. Local police dispersed the crowd. *(12 Jerusalem 729)*

## **SRI LANKA**

~~(SBU)~~ Approximately 800 to 1000 demonstrators protested peacefully near Embassy Colombo. Local police deployed 1000 personnel to the area and reinforced security at the chancery. *(MGMEP01/Embassy Colombo e-mail)*

## **TANZANIA**

~~(SBU)~~ In Dar es Salaam, several thousand protesters, some calling for the closure of the U.S. Embassy, gathered peacefully approximately four miles from the chancery. National religious and political leaders, including the president, called for a peaceful response to the controversial video and promised to protect the U.S. diplomatic presence. Post was already closed by the start of the demonstration. *(MGMEP01/Tanzania desk e-mail)*

## **AUSTRALIA**

~~(SBU)~~ According to Australian police, organizers cancelled planned protests in Canberra, Sydney, and Melbourne for September 22 and 23, though word of the rallies still circulated via social media. In Sydney, police prepared for possible demonstrations near the consulate. *(12 Canberra 527)*

Additional updates on events in YEMEN, WEST BANK are available through our classified website at <http://ses.state.sgov.gov>

Dist: State (all bureaus), NSS, OSD, NMCC, JCS, CIA, OSC, NCTC, DHS, DNI

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

From: OpsAlert  
Sent: Saturday, September 22, 2012 6:00 AM  
Subject: SITUATION REPORT No. 19 09/22/1 (SBU)  
Attachments: image001.gif

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~



**EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT**  
*Operations Center*

**SITUATION REPORT No. 19**  
**Middle East Protests Monitoring Group MGMEP01**  
Saturday, September 22, 2012  
0600 EDT

**LIBYA**

- (U) Some 30,000 protesters marched through Benghazi September 21 calling for the government to protect against well-armed extremist militia groups and return to rule of law. At least four people were killed after military police and protesters took over militia bases. *(BBC)*
- (U) By early morning September 22, protesters overran at least four militia bases in Benghazi, including the headquarters of the Islamist group Ansar al-Sharia. *(Washington Post)*

**PAKISTAN**

- ~~(SBU)~~ Following nationwide violent protests September 21, Embassy Islamabad reports major cities are currently quiet. Media reported at least 31 people had been killed during the protests, including two police officers in Karachi, with hundreds more injured. There are small protests planned in Islamabad, Lahore, and Peshawar for September 22. *(MGMEP01/Embassy Islamabad e-mail)*
- ~~(SBU)~~ Consulate General Karachi reports a religious political party, Jamaat Ulma Islam, announced plans to hold a peaceful rally September 23 approximately four miles north of the consulate. Protest organizers stated they do not intend to march to the consulate. *(MGMEP01/Consulate General Karachi e-mail)*

**AFGHANISTAN**

(U) In Kabul, about 900 people protested September 21, chanting "death to America" and burning an effigy of President Obama and a U.S. flag. A few hundred demonstrators also protested inside a mosque in Ghazni, 89 miles south of Kabul. The protests were peaceful. *(AP)*

**OUTREACH TO U.S. CITIZENS**

- ~~(SBU)~~ Since September 11, 99 U.S. embassies and consulates issued 183 Security and Emergency Messages related to the Middle East protests. *(MGMEP01/Bureau of Consular Affairs e-mail)*
- (U) The U.S. Embassy in Dar es Salaam issued an Emergency Message September 22 advising U.S. citizens to avoid the Mnazi Moja park area in downtown due to the large demonstration that took place there September 21. *(MGMEP01/Embassy Dar es Salaam e-mail and telcon)*

Please see our classified website at <http://ses.state.sgov.gov>

Drafted: LEWilliams

Approved: RJKimbrell

Dist: State (all bureaus), NSS, OSD, NMCC, JCS, CIA, OSC, NCTC, DHS, DNI

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~



From: OpsAlert  
Sent: Sunday, September 23, 2012 5:36 AM  
Subject: Overnight Brief 09/23/12 ~~(SBU)~~  
Attachments: image001.gif

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~



**EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT**  
*Operations Center*

***Overnight Brief***

Sunday, September 23, 2012  
0530 EDT

**PROTEST UPDATE**

- ~~(SBU)~~ Embassy London expects a 3000-person protest outside the embassy September 23. *(MGMEP01/Embassy London e-mail)*
- ~~(SBU)~~ Consulate General Lahore expects three scheduled demonstrations in the vicinity of post September 23. *(Ops/Consulate Lahore telcon and e-mail)*
- ~~(SBU)~~ Bangladesh observed a general strike September 23 called by a group of 12 Islamic political parties in response to the government's refusal to allow them to protest the film September 22. Police broke up a procession of approximately 250 demonstrators approximately 4 miles from the embassy. *(Ops/Embassy Dhaka e-mail)*
- ~~(SBU)~~ Embassy Colombo expects up to 3000 demonstrators in the vicinity of the embassy September 24. *(Ops/Embassy Colombo telcon and e-mail)*

**LIBYA ORDERS MILITIAS TO DISBAND WITHIN 48 HOURS**

~~(SBU)~~ Libyan authorities announced they will dissolve all militias not sanctioned by the government, media report. Embassy Tripoli comments the government appears to be taking non-violent action to rein in militias, noting a visible increase in roadblocks and military personnel. All Benghazi checkpoints are under police control. *(Ops/Embassy Tripoli telcon, France 24)*

**TOP CHINESE SECURITY OFFICIAL VISITS AFGHANISTAN**

~~(SBU)~~ Domestic Security Chief Zhou Yongkang made a four-hour surprise visit to Kabul, the first by a Chinese leader in nearly 50 years, media report. Embassy Beijing comments the Chinese government has consistently underscored its interest in helping advance stability in the region. *(Ops/Embassy Beijing e-mail, Xinhua News)*

**IRAN DETAINS EX-PRESIDENT'S DAUGHTER**

~~(SBU)~~ Tehran's judiciary department took Faezeh Hashemi, daughter of influential former president Rafsanjani, into custody to serve a six-month sentence on charges of spreading anti-state propaganda, media report. The Iran Regional Presence Office Dubai comments the detention likely is a government effort to remind Rafsanjani of the limits on his political activity. *(Ops/Iran Regional Presence Office Dubai e-mail, AP)*

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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, September 27, 2012 11:28 AM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Great minds think alike

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Just an FYI that Glenn Kessler published a comprehensive timeline yesterday of news reports and Obama administration responses to the Libya attack, focusing specifically on how it was or was not defined as a terrorist attack. HRC mentions highlighted

## **From video to terrorist attack: a definitive timeline of administration statements on the Libya attack**

**By Glenn Kessler, Published: September 26 | Updated: Thursday, September 27, 6:02 AM**

*"We are still doing an investigation."*

— President Obama, Sept. 25, 2012

In any kind of confused overseas event, initial reports are often wrong. But the Sept. 11 attack on the U.S. diplomatic post in Benghazi, Libya, in which four Americans were killed, including the ambassador, is a case study of how an administration can carefully keep the focus as long as possible on one storyline — and then turn on a dime when it is no longer tenable.

For political reasons, it certainly was in the White House's interests to not portray the attack as a terrorist incident, especially one that took place on the anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks. Instead the administration kept the focus on what was ultimately a red herring — anger in the Arab world over anti-Muslim video posted on YouTube. With key phrases and message discipline, the administration was able to conflate an attack on the U.S. Embassy in Egypt — which apparently was prompted by the video — with the deadly assault in Benghazi.

Officials were also able to dismiss pointed questions by referring to an ongoing investigation.

Ultimately, when the head of the National Counterterrorism Center was asked pointblank on Capitol Hill whether it was an act of terror — and he agreed — the administration talking points began to shift. (Tough news reporting — as well as statements by Libya's president — also played a role.) Yet President Obama himself resisted using the "t" word, even as late as Tuesday, while keeping the focus on the video in his speech to the U.N. General Assembly.

On Wednesday, however, White House spokesman Jay Carney acknowledged also that Obama himself believes the attack was terrorism — and so more than two weeks after the attack the Rubicon finally was crossed.

As a reader service, we have compiled a comprehensive timeline of administration statements, showing the evolution in talking points, with key phrases highlighted in bold. Many readers sent suggestions for this timeline, for which we are deeply grateful.

We will leave it to readers to reach their own conclusions on whether this is merely the result of the fog of war and diplomacy — or a deliberate effort to steer the storyline away from more politically damaging questions. After all, in a competitive election, two weeks is a lifetime.

Initially, 'an attack' — and focus on a video

Yesterday, our U.S. diplomatic post in Benghazi, Libya, was attacked. Heavily armed militants assaulted the compound and set fire to our buildings. American and Libyan security personnel battled the attackers together. Four Americans were killed. They included Sean Smith, a foreign service information management officer, and our Ambassador to Libya, Chris Stevens. We are still making next of kin notifications for the other two individuals.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, State Department Treaty room, Sept. 12

"Frankly, we are not in a position to speak any further to the perpetrators of this attack. It was clearly a complex attack. We're going to have to do a full investigation."

— *Unnamed senior administration official, briefing reporters in a conference call, Sept. 12*

"I think it's important to note with regards to that protest that there are protests taking place in different countries across the world that are responding to the movie that has circulated on the Internet. As Secretary Clinton said today, the United States government had nothing to do with this movie. We reject its message and its contents. We find it disgusting and reprehensible. America has a history of religious tolerance and respect for religious beliefs that goes back to our nation's founding. We are stronger because we are the home to people of all religions, including millions of Muslims, and we reject the denigration of religion. We also believe that there is no justification at all for responding to this movie with violence."

— *White House spokesman Jay Carney, news briefing, Sept. 13*

This has been a difficult week for the State Department and for our country. We've seen the heavy assault on our post in Benghazi that took the lives of those brave men. We've seen rage and violence directed at American embassies over an awful Internet video that we had nothing to do with. It is hard for the American people to make sense of that because it is senseless, and it is totally unacceptable.

Clinton, transfer of remains ceremony, Sept. 14

"I have seen that report, and the story is absolutely wrong. We were not aware of any actionable intelligence indicating that an attack on the U.S. mission in Benghazi was planned or imminent. That report is false."

— *Carney, news briefing, Sept. 14*

"Based on the best information we have to date ... it began spontaneously in Benghazi as a reaction to what had transpired some hours earlier in Cairo, where, of course, as you know, there was a violent protest outside of our embassy sparked by this hateful video. But soon after that spontaneous protest began outside of our consulate in Benghazi, we believe that it looks like extremist elements, individuals, joined in that effort with heavy weapons of the sort that are, unfortunately, readily now available in Libya post-revolution. And that it spun from there into something much, much more violent.... We do not have information at present that leads us to conclude that this was premeditated or preplanned."

— *Susan E. Rice, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, on CBS's "Face the Nation," Sept. 16*

"We had a substantial security presence with our personnel and the consulate in Benghazi. Tragically, two of the four Americans who were killed were there providing security. That was their function. And indeed, there were many other colleagues who were doing the same with them."

— *Rice, on ABC's "This Week," Sept. 16*

(Note: the U.S. post was not a consulate and its precise role is still a mystery.)

*"The way these perpetrators acted and moved, and their choosing the specific date for this so-called demonstration, this leaves us with no doubt that this was preplanned, predetermined."*

— *Mohamed Yusuf al-Magariaf, president of Libya's General National Congress, Sept. 16*

QUESTION: "Simply on the basis of what Ambassador Rice has publicly disclosed, does the United States Government regard what happened in Benghazi as an act of terror?"

SPOKESWOMAN VICTORIA NULAND: "Again, I'm not going to put labels on this until we have a complete investigation, okay?"

QUESTION: "You don't — so you don't regard it as an act of terrorism?"

NULAND: "I don't think we know enough. I don't think we know enough. And we're going to continue to assess. She gave our preliminary assessment. We're going to have a full investigation now, and then we'll be in a better position to put labels on things, okay?"

— *exchange at State Department briefing, Sept. 17*

"Well, you're conveniently conflating two things, which is the anniversary of 9/11 and the incidents that took place, which are under investigation and the cause and motivation behind them will be decided by that investigation."

— *Carney, news briefing, Sept. 17*

Suddenly, a shift to a 'terrorist attack'

"I would say yes, they were killed in the course of a **terrorist attack** on our embassy.... The best information we have now, the facts that we have now indicate that this was an opportunistic attack on our embassy. The attack began and evolved and escalated over several hours at our embassy — our diplomatic post in Benghazi. It evolved and escalated over several hours.

"It appears that individuals who were certainly well-armed seized on the opportunity presented as the events unfolded that evening and into the — into the morning hours of September 12th. We do know that a number of militants in the area, as I mentioned, are well-armed and maintain those arms. **What we don't have at this point is specific intelligence that there was a significant advanced planning or coordination for this attack.**

"We are focused on who was responsible for this attack. At this point, what I would say is that a number of different elements appear to have been involved in the attack, including individuals connected to militant groups that are prevalent in eastern Libya, particularly in the Benghazi area, as well. We are looking at indications that individuals involved in the attack may have had connections to al-Qaeda or al-Qaeda's affiliates; in particular, al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb."

— *Mathew Olsen, director of the National Counterterrorism Center, testimony before Congress, Sept. 19, after being asked a direct question.*

CNN reports on Sept. 19 that Ambassador Christopher Stevens had been worried by the security threats in Benghazi. CNN later acknowledged the information came from Steven's journal.

"It is, I think, self-evident that what happened in Benghazi was a terrorist attack. Our embassy was attacked violently, and the result was four deaths of American officials. So, again, that's self-evident. He also made clear that at this point, based on the information he has — and he is briefing the Hill on the most up-to-date intelligence — we have no information at this point that suggests that this was a significantly preplanned attack, but this was the result of opportunism, taking advantage of and exploiting what was happening as a result of reaction to the video that was found to be offensive."

— *Carney, news briefing, Sept. 20*

CBS News reports there never was anti-American protest.

"Witnesses tell CBS News that there was never an anti-American protest outside of the consulate. Instead they say it came under planned attack. That is in direct contradiction to the administration's account."

— *Margaret Brennan CBS News correspondent, CBS News report aired Sept. 20*

But Obama resists saying the 't' word...

OBAMA: "What we've seen over the last week, week and a half, is something that actually we've seen in the past, where there is an offensive video or cartoon directed at the prophet Muhammad. And this is obviously something that then is used as an excuse by some to carry out inexcusable violent acts directed at Westerners or Americans.

"And my number-one priority is always to keep our diplomats safe and to keep our embassies safe. And so when the initial events happened in Cairo and all across the region, we worked with Secretary Clinton to redouble our security, and to send a message to the leaders of these countries: essentially, saying, although we had nothing to do with the video, we find it offensive, it's not representative of America's views, how we treat each other with respect when it comes to their religious beliefs, but we will not tolerate violence."

QUESTION: "We have reports that the White House said today that the attacks in Libya were a terrorist attack. Do you have information indicating that it was Iran, or al-Qaeda was behind organizing the protests?"

OBAMA: "Well, we're still doing an investigation, and there are going to be different circumstances in different countries. And so I don't want to speak to something until we have all the information. What we do know is that the natural protests that arose because of the outrage over the video were used as an excuse by extremists to see if they can also directly harm U.S. interests."

— *President Obama, Univision Town Hall, Sept. 20*

What happened in Benghazi was a terrorist attack, and we will not rest until we have tracked down and brought to justice the terrorists who murdered four Americans.

Clinton statement at a meeting with Pakistani Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar, Sept. 21, 2012

As we all know, the United States lost a great ambassador and the Libyan people lost a true friend when Chris Stevens and three other Americans were killed in the terrorist assault on our consulate in Benghazi.

*Clinton, meeting with Libyan President Magariaf, Sept. 24*

QUESTION: "I heard Hillary Clinton say it was an act of terrorism. Is it? What do you say?"

OBAMA: "We are still doing an investigation. There is no doubt that the kind of weapons that were used, the ongoing assault, that it wasn't just a mob action. Now, we don't have all the information yet so we are still gathering."

— Obama, on ABC's "The View," Sept. 25

"That is what we saw play out in the last two weeks, as a crude and disgusting video sparked outrage throughout the Muslim world. Now, I have made it clear that the United States government had nothing to do with this video, and I believe its message must be rejected by all who respect our common humanity."

— Obama, speech to the U.N. General Assembly, Sept. 25

"It was a preplanned act of terrorism directed against American citizens."

— Magariaf, on NBC's "Today" show, Sept. 26

For some time, al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb and other groups have launched attacks and kidnappings from northern Mali into neighboring countries. Now, with a larger safe haven and increased freedom to maneuver, terrorists are seeking to extend their reach and their networks in multiple directions. And they are working with other violent extremists to undermine the democratic transitions underway in North Africa, as we tragically saw in Benghazi.

*Clinton, at the United Nations, Sept. 26*

QUESTION: "Is there any reason why the President did not — he was asked point-blank in The View interview, is this a terrorist attack, yes or no? Is there any reason why he didn't say yes?"

CARNEY: "He answered the question that he was asked, and there's no reason that he chose the words he did beyond trying to provide a full explanation of his views and his assessment that we need to await further information that the investigation will uncover. But it is certainly the case that it is our view as an administration, the President's view, that it was a terrorist attack."

— Carney, news briefing, Sept. 26